

Hafa Adai!

CCC now creating its own bank accounts, payroll, cashier. **PAGE 5**

Labor prepares for reopening of PUA program for new applications. **PAGE 7**

75¢

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PIC shuts down again



File photo shows the Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio.

KRIZEL TUAZON

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

After three months of being open to guests, Pacific Islands Club Saipan closed its doors anew yesterday, mainly because the hotel has not been earning enough since it decided to reopen in October 2020.

PIC general manager Gloria Cavanagh said in an email interview that shutting down PIC at this time was a business decision. "We were suffering an additional loss with the opening of the hotel and a portion of the waterpark, so we would have to plan carefully. The additional loss was

See PIC on Page 4

Over 170 get vaccinated on Rota

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. had another successful rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine with 174 people on Rota getting inoculated with the vaccine at the Rota Health Center last Jan. 24.

Additionally, the CNMI saw three more people who tested positive for COVID-19 last Jan. 23, bringing the CNMI's cumulative total to 132. CHCC stated that the new positive cases were identified by travel screening and were confirmed positive

See ROTA on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Jan 25, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,547	7	7,554
Recovered	7,293	26	7,319
Active	99	7	106
Deaths	128	1	129
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			112,181

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	132	0	132
Traced via Travel Screening	106	0	106
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			159

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

IPI has yet to pay employees who were let go

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has yet to pay the back wages of employees who are owed money but

were let go as a result of the economic downturn brought by the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020.

According to numerous IPI employees who were separated from IPI or fur-

loughed, or completely let go, they have yet to receive their wages from July last year and additional monies owed them as stated in their contracts with IPI.

See IPI on Page 4

'Ex-senator Yumul accepts IPI CEO job'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former Saipan senator Ray Naraja Yumul has accepted the position of chief executive officer of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, *Saipan Tribune* learned over the weekend.

A source disclosed that Yumul start-



Yumul

ed working as IPI CEO last Friday.

In an interview last Thursday, Yumul said he is considering the job because he wants the casino industry to succeed and resolve the many issues IPI is facing.

Yumul attended last Thursday the Commonwealth Casino Commis-

See YUMUL on Page 4



Photo shows Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig getting inoculated with the Moderna Inc. COVID-19 vaccine at the Rota Health Center last Jan. 23.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INSIDE



BUSINESS

La Vista Pizza & Chicken is your new go-to place when it comes to pizza and fried chicken.

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NATION

President Joe Biden will formally reinstate COVID-19 travel restrictions on non-U.S. travelers.

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WORLD

New Zealand has reported its first community transmission of the coronavirus.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local



FOOD DRIVE

Non-profit organization Miracle Hands held a food drive shortly after their soft opening last Saturday, Jan. 23, distributing donated food items to more than 200 families in front of their office in Gualo Rai.

NEIL FAMA

Story on Page 6

MVA looks at expanding 'travel bubble' to Japan

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority is currently discussing plans to expand a proposed travel bubble for South Korea to Japan.

During MVA's monthly board meeting last Thursday, the Travel Bubble Committee discussed plans to possibly expand the travel bubble program that is currently in the works for South Korea.

According to Ivan Quichocho, who is a member of the Travel Bubble Committee, the committee is talking about starting the process to launch the travel bubble in Japan, given how long it is taking to launch the program for Korea.

"Despite what's happening in those regions, let's start getting the protocols and the parameters that would allow us to operate all ironed out and laid out," he said.

Quichocho said the travel bubble for Japan may be a little different in terms of safety protocols, given that it will take about six months to launch. One of the proposed ideas for the Japan travel bubble was setting Rota as the destination.

"So maybe we should look at Rota as the start for a Japan bubble, as Rota has always been Japan-centric in terms of source markets. They have sufficient rooms to handle a narrow-body charter [plane]. It's going to be a little bit different from Korea, because if we're starting this now and it takes us six months, that puts us in summer, so kind of anticipating that vaccinations and these kind of things would be further down the road. We want to just talk in general about what we foresee as potential rollback of some of the restrictions. And given that the vaccine companies haven't authorized kids yet, or pregnant women,

there's still that bit of roadblock in a larger community that may keep us so restricted," he said.

Travel bubble committee member and MVA board vice chair Gloria Cavanagh seconded the idea, adding that they have also been talking about selling Rota as a "wedding destination" for the travel bubble.

"As we go toward summer, June seems to be still the month when people want to get married and, you know, we can promote [Rota] that way, as kind of like a wedding destination," she said.

Cavanagh said the first step, however, is reinstating the MVA offshore office in Japan in order to organize the travel bubble within Japan.

"On the ground, as far as the Japanese market, we don't have any strong partners anymore. The two biggest tour agents that we actually have on the ground don't have the capacity to actually move this along. I don't think that there's a strong presence in the Japan hotels that would be able to do something like what we're doing with the Korean [travel bubble]," she said.

MVA managing director Priscilla Iakopo proposed a \$6,000 monthly rate to reinstate the Japan office.

"We definitely need to reinstate the Japan office to really help us with the communications and networking and give us all the information we really need to execute [the travel bubble]. With that, with several discussions, we're proposing a monthly rate of \$6,000. And that would cover whatever information [we] need and assistance," she said.

The MVA board unanimously voted to reinstate the Japan office and wire \$6,000 monthly to the offshore account.



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'Expanding travel bubble crucial to restoring lessened revenue'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig said the planned expansion of the CNMI's travel bubble program to other foreign market partners like Japan, China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan are necessary options for

the Commonwealth to pursue to restore diminished government revenue.

In discussing the CNMI's financial outlook in his Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report that he recently submitted to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Atalig said the proposed travel bubble being worked among the

CNMI government, Marianas Visitors Authority, and South Korea market partners will allow for a partial resumption of tourism from South Korea to the CNMI, while maintaining strict adherence to the domestic COVID-19 mitigation guidelines.

Citing Atalig's report, Torres early this year notified the Legislature that the total spending and obligations for fiscal year 2020 exceeded the appropriated resources by \$133,172,087.

That means a deficit of over \$133 million. Of that amount, \$85 million was a direct result

of the COVID-19 threat and mitigation efforts used to keep the CNMI as safe as possible from the spread of the virus.

Amidst the pandemic, Atalig said, the CNMI has some opportunities to rebound toward the end of fiscal year 2021. "The arrival of COVID-19 vaccines gives the CNMI opportunity to return to normalcy. This includes reaching large-scale adoption of the vaccine, resuming full domestic commercial activity, and the resumption of travel arrivals to the Commonwealth," Atalig said.

With the recent approval of the second pandemic re-

lief and government funding measure, the Commonwealth could see an increase in federal funding necessary to continue the fight against the spread of COVID-19 and address the shortfall of available resources for the continued administration of government services, he said.

Also, with the recent extension of the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, a consistent yet decreased level of personal consumption expenditures can be anticipated, however, the program maintains "a sunset prior to the end of fiscal year 2021."

Atalig said should there be no extension and in the ab-

sence of a larger scale resumption in tourism activities, there will be a decrease in spending in the local economy.

"This will lead to a contraction in tax revenue and reducing the opportunity for the economy to improve. Should this be the case, the CNMI will experience another year of stagnation," he said.

Expressing optimism, Atalig said despite the continued uncertainties for the resumption of the CNMI tourism industry, legislation geared toward generating revenue and encouraging business development can aid in meeting fiscal year 2021 revenue projections.

OTHER THAN LITTLE DISCOMFORT ON HIS ARM

Everything was OK after 2nd COVID-19 dose, says Torres

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Other than a little discomfort on his left arm where he received his second COVID-19 vaccine injection, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Friday that everything felt fine.

"Just a little fatigue," said Torres during his radio news briefing when asked how he feels after getting his second dose.

Torres has also spoken with others who got the second dose who stated that there's absolutely no side effect at all.

"I just want to continue the encouragement for everyone to register and be patient. And make sure that we all get vaccinated," the governor said.

Reaction to the vaccinations have been mixed, with some reporting not feeling any side effects at all, while others reported feeling some headache, elevated temperature, and lethargy after the second dose.

Others report feeling better after taking an over-the-counter painkiller and drinking lots of fluids.

Torres received his second dose last Jan. 9. Shortly after, he said he feels a sense of relief that he's taking this for his family and the Commonwealth.

"I continue to encourage our community to get vaccinated through our phase-based rollout," the governor said.

At Friday's news briefing, Torres said he and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force went to Rota last Wednesday to assess the health center and meet Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and the mayor's team ahead of the planned inoculation on Rota last Sunday. "We're excited to see the rollout over the weekend," he said. "We're really excited to see the progress and the success. And we continue to communicate with our partners, our community."

New CHamoru orthography launched

The Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam announced Thursday last week the launch of its latest revision of the the 1983 CHamoru Orthography.

With the enactment of Public Law 33-236 re-establishing the commission came the responsibility to refine a standard way of linking the CHamoru alphabet to the sounds of our indigenous language. Commission members adopted changes to the 1983 CHamoru orthography and present an updated version of the booklet, which provides a more standardized approach to writing CHamoru.

"Agreeing on a shared way to use our *Atfabeton* CHamoru in writing is necessary in building proficiency and therefore, building stability into CHamoru as the mother tongue of our people of the Mariana Islands," said Commission chair Hope Cristobal. "This booklet provides guidance in order that we do just that—communicate in a more standard way in CHamoru."

The commission acknowledges that there may be dia-

lectical, generational, island specific and personal preference in careful consideration of its movement forward. The commission believes the orthographic rules and use of the atfabeton CHamoru must also conform to the broader norms of language systems in society.

"The release of this updated orthography is timely in this revitalization period as we may have ten years or less to revive our language, considering the age of proficient CHamoru speakers whom we have left among us," said commission administrator AnnaMarie Arceo. "This orthography will be a guiding document for all CHamoru language teachers who play lead roles in this revitalization effort."

The Orthography Booklet is around 40 pages long, consisting of the Chamoru language's symbols and abbreviations, 17 orthographic rules, and glossary. Hardcopies will be distributed to the CHamoru Language Teachers. The Orthography will also be available for download on the commission's website (kumisionchamoru.guam.gov). (PR)

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ON LOCAL MATCH FOR COVID-19-RELATED GRANTS

NMI to appeal denial of CNMI request for waiver

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Friday that the CNMI government is going appeal to the administration of President Joseph Biden Jr. to reconsider the denial of the Commonwealth's request for a waiver on the local match required for COVID-19-related grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Speaking at a radio news briefing last Friday, Torres expressed optimism that FEMA under the new Biden administration will reconsider the CNMI government's appeal because they are fully aware of what is happening in the CNMI.

The governor said he just spoke with governor's authorized representative Patrick Guerrero Thursday about appealing acting FEMA administrator Robert Fenton's Jan. 15 denial letter.

In that letter, Fenton told Torres that his request for a waiver on the local match "is not warranted."

Fenton, who is an appointee of former president Donald J. Trump, said

that, based on their review of all of the information available, it was determined that the increased level of funding that Torres has requested is not warranted.

"Therefore, I must inform you that your request for a cost share adjustment for this major disaster declaration is denied," said Fenton.

Torres said the CNMI has a very good working relationship with



Torres

Fenton and that he is optimistic that with the Commonwealth's success rate in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, the CNMI is putting a very good justification on the appeal that should be going out soon.

"We need to do what we need to do. We understand their process...but we're here to highlight our success and our challenges as well," Torres pointed out.

The governor said Fenton was previously the administrator for FEMA's Region IX so he knows exactly what the CNMI has been

going through.

Torres said Fenton had been in the CNMI a few times and that they've dealt with him.

He said Fenton has an excellent team that does continue to help the CNMI on the ground.

The governor pointed out that as the CNMI has been trying to fix and recover from Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation, then now this pandemic.

"So they know exactly our situations here. I'm optimistic that, once we send in again our letter of appeal, that will be taken into consideration," he said.

If the CNMI's appeal is denied, Torres said he does not know yet the exact amount as to how much the CNMI would need to match. He, however, believes that in the first 60 or 90 days of a disaster declaration, the CNMI is covered 90%-10% local match and then certain cost is 75%-25% local match.

"I don't have the exact number of the amount now. But we might be able to get that later on," the governor said.

» **Torres optimistic
Biden adminis-
tration will re-
consider**

YUMUL

From Page 1

sion's status conference in connection with CCC executive director's complaints against IPI, but did not participate.

After the status conference, Yumul was seen shaking hands and talking

with some commissioners.

It was CCC executive director Andrew Yeom who told the CCC board during last Wednesday's monthly board meeting that Yumul and IPI have a verbal agreement for Yumul to be the CEO.

Yumul then stated he will be submitting to IPI a document that will itemize his conditions.

IPI

From Page 1

"We are IPI employees who were separated in July or August and are still waiting to be paid for the paid time off earned and severance amount promised in our employment contracts," said one such employee who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

One employee who is currently employed with IPI who also requested anonymity told *Saipan Tribune* that he, among others, did not receive any payment from IPI last Friday for their last few payrolls.

"I work for IPI even though they don't pay me. Many were given their checks [last Friday] but they said they couldn't verify my payment. I have not been paid yet. Our barracks also still has no power and we're living in the dark," he said.

IPI reported to the federal court last Friday that they have issued payments for payrolls 21 to 26 to over 300 IPI workers who currently remain employed with IPI.

However, IPI has yet to report

whether or not they have restored employee housing to habitable conditions.

Last Thursday, during a hearing on the U.S. Department of Labor's petition to find IPI and its officials in contempt, IPI chair Cui Li Jie promised that all employees would be paid on Friday and that power and water would be restored to all employee housing.

Cui was found in contempt last Thursday, along with IPI and Imperial Pacific International Holdings LTD.

Acting on the USDOL's motion, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona dismissed Browne from the proceedings. USDOL asked the court to dismiss former IPI chief executive officer Donald Browne from its suit because they have no sufficient evidence to show that Browne had actual notice of the 2019 consent judgement.

USDOL also moved the court to include IPI's new CEO in its suit against IPI and find him in contempt. However, as of last Thursday's hearing, IPI had no replacement CEO yet.

Babauta urges women to join women-led group for internship

Rep. Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan) is encouraging a motivated individual to join the Our Common Wealth 670, a women-led community group in the CNMI, for a paid internship.

Babauta said the chosen individual will be given research opportunity to help empower women's voices in the CNMI community while educating the public about militarism.

She said this internship will be funded by the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, a non-government organization consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

The lawmaker said they are looking for someone who is under 35, female, indigenous Chamorro and/or Refaluwasch, who lives in the CNMI, has good communications skills, and interested in grassroots organizing, human rights, and

women's rights. The chosen one will be mentored by Dr. Theresa Arriola, chair of OCW 670, to engage with the CNMI community to empower women's democratic participation.

Interested individual is advised to contact by email at ourcommonwealth670@gmail.com. Internship will begin in February 2021.

Babauta said among of their goals are to encourage safe and respectful dialogue among community members and local government about all current and proposed



Babauta

military planning in the Marianas and provide community members with information about military planning and events that are clear, concise, and easy to understand on multiple platforms such as radio, Facebook, Instagram, and website.

Our Common Wealth 670 was established in 2019 with a mission to protect ancestral lands, seas and skies from irreparable damage

caused by military practices and other developments that pose a threat to health, physical and livelihoods by increasing awareness of current military planning and the policies that affect the CNMI the most.

The lawmaker said as board member of OCW670, she is so proud of the work they've accomplished.

"Spreading awareness and encouraging dialogue about militarism in the Marianas is not easy, and is often a sensitive and emotional topic. But we have to talk about it," she said.

Babauta said OCW670 helped her and the community understand complex plans and ideas by offering the information in a way that is easy to absorb, especially by using social media platforms.

"I highly encourage our community to stay aware and informed with OCW670, and to those who are qualified—apply for the internship!" she said. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña. She added that, like on Tinian, Saipan's CHCC staff were there to support Rota's Health Center's staff. Rota currently has 38 staff working at its health center.

Muña said that they are now working out a plan on how the Saipan hospital can help inoculate the Rota population. Muña said they will know by this week if only Rota's staff will be vaccinating the island's residents, or use staff on Saipan to help Rota out.

In a post on the Rota Mayor's Office Facebook page, Rota Mayor

Efraim M. Atalig, stated that he took the COVID-19 vaccination for his community. "My dear people of Rota, I took my COVID-19 vaccination because I firmly believe in our community and our people. I'm again asking all of our people to please register and take the vaccination. ...We are all in this together," said Atalig.

As for what vaccine Rota is using, CHCC chief operation officer Subroto Banerji said they are using the Moderna Inc. vaccine since it is easier to transport and does not require ultra-cold freezing.

ROTA

From Page 1

through testing upon arrival. They have been safely in quarantine and were moved to the designated isolation area, the Kanoa Resort in Supe, for monitoring.

CHCC has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts of the new confirmed cases, including passengers on the same flight.

The scheduled vaccinations on Rota went smoothly, according to

called back, but, for now, they will have to be furloughed.

When asked as to when PIC will reopen, Cavanagh stated that they will address this on a periodic basis, but PIC hopes to open its Food & Beverage Department in March. The F&B outlets are The Galley, Seaside Grill, and The Magellan. PIC opened the restaurants and waterpark last October because of persistent local demand.

Though PIC will be closed, their sister hotels, Kensington Hotel Saipan and the Coral Ocean Point, will remain open.

'PIC will be missed'

In an interview with customers who asked not to be named, they said that PIC will definitely be missed. Jane (not her real name) said her favorite was PIC's happy hour and that she would sometimes see Cavanagh among the servers during PIC's happy hour. "It was different seeing her serve. Usually, you don't see managers serve as waitstaff, and you would think that they wouldn't know how to serve, but the service was perfect," said Jane.

Additionally, Jane hopes that PIC will open soon when the economy picks up.

Another local customer stated that rank-and-file staff up to managers were all hands-on with operations.

WITH SIGNING OF BILL INTO LAW THAT GIVES CCC MORE POWER

CCC now creating its own bank accounts, payroll, cashier

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is now transitioning itself to establish its own bank accounts, cashier, payroll, human resources, procurement regulations, and other things, after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres recently signed a bill into law that enhances CCC's powers.

In his report to the CCC board during last week's monthly board meeting, CCC executive director Andrew Yeom said they are thankful to the Legislature and Torres for passing House Bill 21-11 into Public Law 21-38 that clarifies CCC's regulatory oversight of the Saipan casino industry.

Yeom said since the new law provides no grace period, CCC had to quickly meet up with Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig to work out a Memorandum of Understanding for Finance to continue processing CCC's payrolls and procurements until they

are systematically ready and have the funding transferred into their own account.

He told the board that they have the MOU draft ready for their review and approval so they can proceed with the smooth operation without interruption.

In terms of payroll setup, Yeom said they aim to have the software and the system ready to go by mid-March 2021.

With respect to the procurement regulations promulgation, Yeom said they are working to have them ready for the board's approval at the meeting next month.

"The bank account should also be ready and available for our use within the next few weeks," he said, adding that the amount of funding for CCC still remains to be discussed and decided with Atalig.

Under the new law, Public Law 21-38, CCC, and not the Finance secretary, shall establish and maintain a CCC regulatory fee fund to be kept separate and apart

from the general fund of the government.

The new law provides that, as an autonomous agency, CCC shall determine its staffing levels for full-time, part-time, seasonal and temporary employees.

The new law also gives, among other things, CCC the authority to issue a casino license.

CCC board chair Edward C. Deleon Guerrero said in an earlier interview that the new law would strengthen the casino commission's ability to

enforce the mandates of the original gaming law, Public Law 18-56, and would clarify and remove some of the ambiguities.

Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Andrew Yeom gives his report before the CCC commissioners during their monthly meeting at CCC's conference room at Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai last Wednesday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



'Having NMTI accredited will help'

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

With the Northern Marianas Trades Institute reopening its doors to 103 students, the more NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres is convinced that the school should be accredited so that its students will be able to tap federal financial aid, which would mean more money going into the institute.

Right now, NMTI students can only avail of local financial help from



McPhetres

have to buy the type of clothing or shoes that is acceptable for that particular trade," said McPhetres. Students can't learn from a YouTube video; they need to be hands-on, she said.

In the same interview, NMTI director for Continuing Education and Workforce

Development, Ross S. Manglona, stated that most of their equipment are donated to NMTI but there are other costly equipment that they have purchased for their students. For example, NMTI had to purchase a \$27,000 generator from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for the students so that they can teach the students what is in the generator and how to fix it.

It was not immediately learned which accrediting body NMTI is pursuing.

McPhetres emphasized that being in charge of a trades institute is drastically different than being in charge of a typical school. A trades school, she said, needs more funding for materials, mock materials, etc.

According to Manglona, NMTI averages 700 students a year with only 12 instructors.

NMTI offers classes in culinary arts, electrical, automotive technology, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, welding, hotel, and restaurant operations, etc.

Right now, NMTI students can only avail of local financial help from CNMI Scholarship and Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance. By having NMTI accredited, that would allow its students to apply for federal scholarships and McPhetres said the money students will get from a federal program will end up going into the institute (material, paying the teachers, etc.), plus it will allow the institute to be eligible for more federal grants.

This will be extremely helpful to NMTI, McPhetres said, since the institute pays for most of the materials its students need. For example, a culinary student needs aprons, knives, food to cook, etc., while an automotive student needs tools, something to work on, etc.—all of which aren't cheap.

"Here, you have to buy supplies that are consumable. You have to buy tools, you have to buy equipment, you

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CNMI community welcomes a new charitable group

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Non-profit organization Miracle Hands, which aims to help the community's disadvantaged residents, introduced itself to the Commonwealth community last Saturday with a soft-opening at its new facility in Gualo Rai.

Around 35 people attended the soft-opening to either congratulate or help hand food donations to Miracle Hands. Among them were Diocese of Chalan Kanoa Bishop Ryan Jimenez, Saipan Community Church pastor Stephen Dame, church officials from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, House Speaker Edmund Villagomez

(Ind-Saipan), and Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan).

Chandis Cooper, one of the charity's founder and its board secretary, said that Saturday's event included a distribution of donated bags of food to more than 200 families. Cooper said 48 bags were set aside to be delivered to those who were unable to come and pick up the food due to lack of transportation or because they are in poor health.

"We have received donors from various sponsors since the inception of our charity," she said.

Miracle Hands' sponsors include but are not limited to Wushin Co., which donated over 800 lbs of rice; Great Harvest, which donated over \$3,000 worth of bread; I Love Saipan, which donated boxes

of chocolates and a box of hydroponic lettuce; Numbers Corp., which donated \$200; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, which donated \$5,000 and manpower to help with the distribution during the soft-opening; Saipan Vegas Resort, which donated \$500; and the Rotary Club of Saipan, which donated three pallets of frozen goods.

"For the soft-opening distribution, we used \$3,000 from the \$5,000 that the LDS Church donated to buy food and supplies that [were] included in the bags [handed out last Saturday]," said Cooper.

Each recipient received a can of Spam, two cans of tuna, a 5-lb. bag of rice, two cans of Vienna sausage, and two packs of ramen noodles. Ad-

ditionally, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan donated 100 pieces of Fiesta Resort T-shirts, 108 teddy bears, and three boxes of Bibles that were previously used in their rooms.

The Saipan Mayor's Office also donated a 20x40 tent and manpower that was used to clear the debris across the office or parking and distribution. Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) donated three 10x20 tents. Terry 'N Bolis donated \$200 worth of refreshments for the soft opening, while Local Taste Catering donated \$150 worth of refreshments. Miracle Hands is also grateful to the Natibu Lions Club.

According to Miracle Hands chief executive officer Dr. Rosalyn Ajoste, one person who had been furloughed was able

to take advantage of their thrift shop and bought seven pairs of jeans. Ajoste said that all money they raise from their thrift shop goes straight back to buying food for families.

Aside from founders Co-

per and Ajoste, Miracle Hands is also made up of board chair Diego M. Sablan, treasurer Ellena Sutton, operations manager Renee Reyes-Torres, and board member Edward Terlaje.

DOL issues guide on appeals process under the Continued Assistance Act

The CNMI Department of Labor is providing guidance to claimants regarding provisions under the Continued Assistance for Unemployed Workers Act of 2020.

The passage of the Continued Assistance Act provided, among other things, clarified guidance on the appeals process for unemployment claims. The Act provides that all levels of appeals should be carried out in accordance with the unemployment compensation law of Hawaii. Hawaii state law does not provide a legal framework for second level appeals.

In the event that an appellant wishes to contest an administrative order (i.e., the decision by the administrative hearing officer after an administrative hearing), the appellant must submit a written request to reopen the decision. The written request should state the reasons to support a reversal and must be submitted to the Administrative Hearing Office, either in person or by email.

In the event a request to reopen the decision is denied, or if the appellant still disagrees with a subsequent decision, the appellant may seek judicial review with the CNMI Superior Court under the local Administrative Procedures

Act. All forms, filings fees, and filing deadlines will be as established by court rule. Upon notice or request, the Administrative Hearing Office will provide certified copies of the order and admitted exhibits to the CNMI Superior Court.

CNMI DOL recognizes that these are new procedures and challenging times for everyone. While the Administrative Hearing Office cannot provide legal advice or engage in ex parte communications, the office is here to help and do its best to make sure cases are timely heard. Do not hesitate to contact the office with any questions about these procedures and preparations for telephonic or online hearings.

Claimants may contact the CNMI DOL Administrative Hearing Office at:

Administrative Hearing Office

1357 Mednilla Avenue, Capital Hill

P.O. Box 10007 | Saipan, MP 96950

Phone: (670) 664-3291/2/3

Email: hearing@dol.gov.mp

Due to large call volumes and customer traffic, there may be delays in responses. If you have questions about the Administrative Hearing Office, refer to the Administrative Hearing Office FAQ sheet and previously published orders at www.marian-aslabor.net. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

4.8-magnitude quake in Merizo

At 11:51pm on Jan. 23, 2021, a report of a 4.8-magnitude earthquake occurred at 12.798°N 144.356°E in Merizo, Guam. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. (PR)

Guam issues tax refunds

HAGATNA, Guam—The Department of Revenue & Taxation has processed and the Department of Administration will mail 287 2019 tax refund checks this week. The checks total approximately \$1,038,398, for error-free returns filed on or before July 29, 2020. For inquiries, contact us via the Contact Us section of our website or at pinadmin@revtax.guam.gov. (PR)



NEIL FAMA

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, third from right, is joined by House Speaker Ed Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), second from left, and board members of non-profit organization Miracle Hands during the ribbon-cutting ceremony last Saturday, Jan. 23, at the charity's Gualo Rai office, which was then followed by a food drive.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 8am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (12/16/2020)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
- VII. Director's Report
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - A. New Application
 - P.Biukoto (Mental Health Counselor)
 - B. Renewal Applications
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@ptcom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2021

Opening date: January 08, 2021 Closing date: January 29, 2021

Positions: (1) Mechanic-II (Saipan-ARFF)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, January 29, 2021**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

ANTERINA RUBEN ROPON
Petitioner

vs.

JERRY SAM JONES
Respondent,

FCD-PA CIVIL ACTION
NO. 20-0331

**SUMMONS FOR
PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 504942 CK, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 13th day of January, 2021

/s/ _____
CLERK OF COURT

Labor prepares for reopening of PUA program for new applications

The CNMI Department of Labor last week provided updates on changes involving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance eligibility as a result of the Continued Assistance Act.

The CAA includes Unemployment Insurance provisions that authorizes the extension of the PUA program in the Marianas through March 14, 2021, and expounds on the eligibility requirements and conditions necessary for obtaining PUA, among others.

“The department is focused on preparing for the processing of applications for Continued Assistance and anticipates more applications to be submitted as soon as the program launches in the Marianas,” said Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente. “The official opening date of the PUA program is fast approaching, so we are doing our best to prepare the community by providing pertinent PUA information.”

In a thorough review of Unemployment Insurance Program Letter 16-20, Change 4, CNMI DOL found that the eligibility requirements for PUA qualification have been expanded for Continued Assistance, but remains relatively the same. PUA claimants must continue to self-certify

that their unemployment, partial unemployment, or inability or unavailability to work is specifically attributable to one or more of the COVID-19 related reasons specified in sec-

whichever is later.

Individuals who applied for PUA before Jan. 31, 2021, and receive a payment of PUA on or after Dec. 27, 2020 (regardless of which week end-

Individuals who are not fully unemployed as a result of the pandemic may not qualify for PUA. In other words, claimants who work reduced hours as a result of the pandemic may not qualify for PUA. CNMI DOL has requested a conference meeting with the U.S. Department of Labor for clarification and resolution. Further developments will be issued in a separate press release.

tion 2102(a)(3)(A)(ii)(I)(aa) through (kk) of the CARES Act and must identify that specific reason for each week that PUA is claimed.

CNMI DOL found that the most prominent change to the PUA program (in relation to eligibility conditions) is the requirement for all claimants to provide documentation substantiating employment or self-employment, or the planned commencement of employment or self-employment.

Individuals filing a new PUA application on or after Jan. 31, 2021 (regardless of whether the claim is backdated), are required to provide documentation within 21 days of [the] application or the date the individual is directed to submit the documentation by CNMI DOL,

ing date is being paid), are required to provide documentation substantiating employment or self-employment, or the planned commencement of employment or self-employment, within 90 days of [the] application or when directed to submit documentation by CNMI DOL, whichever is later.

In response to the document submission requirement, the department finds that potential claimants should prepare ahead of time by gathering employment documents prior to the official launch of the PUA program.

Acceptable documentation

In general, proof of employment includes, but is not limited to, paycheck stubs, earn-

ings, and leave statements showing the employer's name and address, and W-2 forms when available.

Proof of self-employment includes, but is not limited to, state or federal employer identification numbers, business licenses, tax returns, business receipts, and signed affidavits from persons verifying the individual's self-employment.

Proof of employment with organizations such as the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, and educational or religious organizations includes, but is not limited to, documentation provided by these organizations and signed affidavits from persons verifying the individual's attachment to such organizations.

Proof of the planned commencement of employment includes, but is not limited to,

letters offering employment, statements/affidavits by individuals (with name and contact information) verifying an offer of employment.

Proof of the planned commencement of self-employment includes, but is not limited to, business licenses, state or Federal employer identification numbers, written business plans, or a lease agreement. Individuals must present the proof of employment and the state may verify the proof submitted using records the state may have available, such as wage records or state revenue records.

In a recent webinar conducted by the U.S. Department of Labor, CNMI DOL learned that individuals who are not fully unemployed as a result of the pandemic may not qualify for PUA. In other words, claimants

who work reduced hours as a result of the pandemic may not qualify for PUA.

The department understands the magnitude of the situation and has since requested a conference meeting with the U.S. Department of Labor for clarification and resolution. Further developments will be issued in a separate press release.

Individuals who have questions about the PUA/FPUC programs are encouraged to contact the CNMI DOL via email at info@puamarianas.com or call the following telephone numbers: 322-8870/8871/8872/8873/8874/8876/8877/8878/8879/8880.

Visit CNMI DOL's website at www.marianaslabor.net to download copies of applicable UIPLs or for more PUA/FPUC-related information. **(PR)**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-21-018

RELOCATION OF UTILITIES AT ROAD (A-F) AND ROUTE 205/206 TINIAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Relocation of Utilities at Road A-F and Route 205/206 in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general relocation of gate valves, water meters, waterlines, fire hydrant assembly and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Department of Defense (USDOD). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USDOD.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **February 2, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-21-018, Relocation of Utilities at Road A-F and Route 205/206 Tinian"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 25, 2021**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) of the total bid price shall accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**



All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 09, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email — manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Joel Puyat, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer — via email joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Technician, Senior — via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any non-material imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Home Rental Assistance

RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

ELIGIBILITY

- Families displaced by Typhoon Mangkhut or Super Typhoon Yutu
- Not a current recipient of any housing rental assistance program

Application package available for pickup at the Kagman Community Center, DYS Admin, DYS Tinian or Rota Offices, or can be downloaded from the Division's Website:

www.dys.gov.mp

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CALL OR EMAIL

(670) 237-1015/1016/1018

Jennifer Tanaka at jtanka@dys.gov.mp or

Nina S. Nekaifes at nnekaifes@dys.gov.mp

CSBG Disaster Supplemental funds will provide seven (7) months rental assistance to seventeen-(17) qualifying families.

SAIPAN

- Nine (9) eligible families


TINIAN

- Four (4) eligible families

ROTA

- Four (4) eligible families

PACKAGE DEADLINE:
February 10, 2021
at 4:30 p.m.



This program was made possible by the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Disaster Relief Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-20), Administration for Children & Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

Congress has to seize the moment Biden has given it to fix immigration

Amid his first wave of actions after his inauguration Wednesday, President Joe Biden took direct aim at the nation's dysfunctional immigration system by rescinding some of the Trump administration's more extreme approaches to enforcement and pushing Congress to finally adopt comprehensive reforms. That's a refreshing—and responsible—change from his predecessor's unconscionably nativist approach.

Biden seeks to embrace a humane and pragmatic view of immigration reform. The executive directives halt further construction of President Donald Trump's vanity wall along the U.S.-Mexico border; reinvigorate the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program that Trump sought to end; end the ban on people from about a dozen predominantly Muslim countries; and withdraw an order that ramped up immigration sweeps in the interior of the country.

Separately, the Department of Homeland Security announced a 100-day suspension of deportations as it reviews procedures and a freeze on new enrollments in the program that requires border-crossing asylum seekers to remain in Mexico, though it did not offer relief for the 60,000 asylum seekers currently stranded along the border. In a sense, the new directives reset federal policies to those of the Obama administration, which is good enough for now.

Biden's more ambitious efforts lie within the bill he proposed to Congress this week, the U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021. Among other things, the measure would let some 11 million people now living in the shadows apply for temporary legal status and provide them an eight-year path to citizenship. That is both the strength of the proposal and its major friction point.

A main argument against such "amnesty" is that it encourages migrants to come in without permission in the hope of staying below the radar until the next amnesty comes along. But sweeping amnesties such as what Biden proposes are rare—the last major one came in the Reagan administration—and the reality is that our immigration enforcement has been ineffective for so long that the U.S. is now home—yes, home—to millions of people without authorization.

Rousting them all, as the hard-liners advocate, would be impossible to achieve and damaging to the country. As of 2017, half of all unauthorized immigrants had lived in the U.S. for at least 15 years, according to the Pew Research Center, and their tenure has likely only increased since then. Many have American spouses, American dependents, and contribute to their communities and the economy (including owning businesses that employ Americans). There is nothing to be gained from kicking them out now. Immigration reform must reflect

See CONGRESS on Next Page



COVID-19 vaccines may cut transmission as well as symptoms

Once again, the COVID-19 health message is getting muddled. Even as officials and scientists urge the public to get vaccinated, they warn that after vaccination, we'll still have to go on isolating and wearing masks.

It's a mistake to oversimplify this way. We should be talking about using the vaccines to end the pandemic—not filling people with dread that they will be stuck with isolation and masks forever. The evidence is compelling that a strong, rapid vaccination campaign could render SARS-CoV-2 less of a threat than seasonal flu through building herd immunity.

Without herd immunity as a shared goal, some might skip the vaccine, influenced by scare stories about side effects and rare allergic reactions, especially if they are young and face only a small chance of dying from the virus.

It's simple enough to tell people that if we all work hard to avoid getting or spreading the disease during the vaccination campaign, and everybody steps up to get the shots, aspects of normal life could resume this year. And even before we reach herd immunity, people who live alone and are vaccinated might be able to visit other vaccinated people without undue fear of disease, guilt or social stigma.

There is some encouraging data on herd immunity from the clinical trials of two leading vaccines, says infectious disease doctor Monica Gandhi of the University of California, San Francisco. While the three leading vaccines have proven extremely effective at preventing symptomatic illness, two showed some hints that they limited transmission of the virus as well.

In the trial for the Moderna vaccine, researchers tested all the participants for SARS-CoV-2 when they returned to get a second dose and found that the first dose alone was about 60% effective at stopping so-called asymptomatic cases.

The trial for the vaccine made by Astra Zeneca included some weekly swabbing of participants who reported no symptoms, and concluded about 60% effectiveness at stopping so-called asymptomatic cases.

Gandhi says she's not surprised—there's a biological reason to think vaccines will cut transmission rates. The immune response would presumably help the body fend off or quickly clear infection whether with or without symptoms.

Art Krieg, a doctor specializing in autoimmune disease and biotech founder, agrees. "Once people are getting vaccinated, it's almost inconceivable that this is not going to slow transmission,"

By FAYE FLAM
Bloomberg Opinion

Faye Flam is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. She has written for the Economist, the New York Times, the Washington Post, Psychology Today, Science and other publications. She has a degree in geophysics from the California Institute of Technology. For more articles like this, please visit us at [bloomberg.com/opinion](https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion)



he says.

Some encouraging news also comes from research newly published in the journal *Nature* suggesting that protective immunity likely lasts many months, if not years, in those who have been infected. The same might apply to the vaccinated.

Herd immunity won't eradicate the disease, but will significantly slow it down. Earlier estimates have suggested that will kick in when about 70% of the population has been infected or vaccinated, but that percentage may be higher or lower depending on how well the vaccines work against transmission and the rise of new variants that are more easily transmitted.

The race against mutations should only serve as another motivating factor for a quick and persuasive vaccination campaign, since the odds of new variants go way down if people get vaccinated quickly. "The more people are infected by this virus, the faster new forms and new mutations are going to evolve," Krieg says.

UCSF's Gandhi says there's enough evidence to justify a hopeful message. "You have this ongoing debate from scientists about what to do after vaccination—do we mask and distance," she says. She worries that the current messages have led people to think they will have to avoid other people forever, "and that's not a way people can live." She's been vaccinated but is still taking precautions, such as wearing a mask at work. But the point of the vaccines, she says, is to end the isolation.

And yes, it is bad for people to live cut off from each other. "I have never seen my patients more miserable—I have never seen them more depressed, lonely, upset, more mentally ill, relapsing into substance abuse," she says.

With people suffering emotionally, socially and financially, we don't need more doom and gloom. We need a shared goal and a science-based message of hope for a livable future.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Preparing for divorce: Seven steps

Divorce may be fairly common these days. But despite the frequency, it's still about as pleasant as a root canal or a colonoscopy. And it can make both of those seem downright pleasant if the spouses declare war on each other. Fortunately, divorce does not have to be angry texts, shrill voices, and endless battles. It can go relatively smoothly with preparation and a concerted effort to act with maturity.

If you decide to take the plunge, the first step is to pick an attorney. Generally, you'll want to meet with a few attorneys to see if there's a good personality fit. When doing so, pay attention to whether they recommend litigation. If they sound aggressive, be careful. Because while you may think you want a bulldog who will make your ex pay, in reality the only one who gets paid in a bruising divorce is your lawyer. So what you want is a lawyer who can fight but who is sensible enough to caution you against spending \$10,000 in legal fees to gain an extra \$5,000 of marital assets.

Second, while interviewing attorneys, you should also conduct an inventory of your financial situation. Begin with what you own—land, the house, vehicles, bank accounts, retirement accounts, and so on. And consider less obvious assets too, like pending tax refunds, airline miles, or loyalty points. You'll then want to figure out the current value of these items as well as when and where they were purchased and if they were bought using marital assets. Next, figure out what you owe. Sometimes that process is as simple as getting a copy of your credit report. Other times it will take additional sleuthing. After that, calculate your and your spouse's income. A good place to start is your most-recent tax return. But if you or your spouse is self-employed, then you may need to review financial business statements and

bank account statements to get a clear picture.

Third, close all of your joint credit accounts. The last thing you need is an angry spouse running up a credit card bill that you may be responsible for later. And if the account is carrying a balance that you can't pay off, then consider freezing the account instead. Once the divorce is over, the responsible party can then deal with the debt without affecting the other spouse's credit.

Fourth, think about opening a new credit card in your name only. But only use it sparingly and make sure that you pay off the balance every month. The idea is to build up your credit score, not generate debt.

Fifth, develop a post-divorce budget. I know budgets are not fun. But it's helpful to evaluate your future income and expenses for a couple reasons. Primarily, it will give you useful information for negotiating a settlement. But it will also prepare you for the reality that your post-divorce finances will likely be gloomier than your marital finances because, for example, while you're married you share a house and other necessities whereas after a split, each of you will need your own residences, vehicles, utilities, and so on.

Sixth, write everything down. Did you have an argument? Make a note of the date, time, and topic. Did the two of you agree on a custodial plan for the kids until the divorce wraps up? Write it down. Did your spouse drop off the kid late or not at all? Document it. The point is that it's easy to forget this stuff later. But if you need to file a motion with the court, then your notes will be invaluable.

Finally, be on your best behavior because every misstep will be used against you. Post a vacation picture while claiming that

FINE PRINT

By **JORDAN SUNDELL**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jordan Sundell is a lawyer. His practice primarily focuses on business, real estate, estate planning, and asset protection. You can find his columns here every other Tuesday as well as on The Fine Print on Facebook. You can contact Mr. Sundell via this newspaper at editor@saipantribune.com or 235-6397/235-2440.

your spouse is asking for too much money? Expect that picture to surface as proof that you can afford your spouse's demand. Post a picture of yourself at bars while you are trying to get primary custody of the kids? Don't be surprised if your spouse uses the photo to argue that you prioritize your fun over your kids' wellbeing.

But those are not the only reason to be on your best behavior. The reality is that while lashing out and acting badly might feel satisfying in the moment, it only makes the situation worse. It prolongs the divorce process, deepens disputes, and poisons your family—especially if you share kids. And that's no good for you or anyone else.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

The Flight 93 post-election

President Donald Trump finally did what the foremost metaphor associated with his political rise would have suggested—he plowed his plane into the ground.

That metaphor is Flight 93, courtesy of Michael Anton, author of a famous essay before the 2016 election about how Republicans had no option but to get on board with Trump. “Charge the cockpit or you die,” Anton wrote.

“The Flight 93 Election” became a signature statement of Trumpism and remains incredibly relevant today. Its mood perfectly captures the post-election period and especially what happened at the U.S. Capitol—fevered, dark and apocalyptic.

Anton wrote as if the end of the republic were upon us, and there's nothing like a rabble storming a citadel of American democracy to buttress this view.

Of course, it was the man Anton believed could be our savior who whipped up this crowd. The mob didn't charge the cockpit metaphorically, but charged the Capitol literally, in the grip of a more extreme, rough-hewn version of Anton's logic and narrative.

Anton is obsessed with a coming Democratic tyranny or coup. So, too, are Trump and his most fanatical supporters, who weren't content simply to write highfalutin essays about how to resist the coup, or “Stop the Steal.”

If the pen is mighty, only baseball bats and projectiles can really make Mike Pence and Nancy Pelosi afraid.

Make no mistake: A Flight 93 mentality led to the Jan. 6 presidency, now defined not by any of the good it accomplished but

by a hideous act of extremism in its desperate, spittle-flecked final days.

In Anton's defense, he never said he believed that Trump knew how to fly a plane. In the future, when hiring someone to pilot the most advanced jetliner on the planet, he might want to add that to the job description, and check a couple of references.

Anton wrote that “only in a corrupt republic, in corrupt time, could a Trump rise.” Rather than concluding that this spoke poorly of Trump, he made it into a kind of virtue. “Yes, Trump is worse than imperfect,” he wrote. “So what?”

So what, indeed.

Trump was supposed to be a winner when other Republicans, Anton argued, were hopeless losers.

In reality, Trump won a fluky victory in 2016, with just 46.1% of the vote. Predictably, he lost the House in 2018. He then lost his re-election bid and contributed to the loss of the GOP Senate majority with his outlandish claims of election fraud.

In office, Trump didn't win saving-America-from-the-apocalypse-type victories, as one would have expected from Anton's hysterical advocacy. Instead, they were the achievements of a standard Republican with a populist bent—tax cuts with tariffs on top.

Trump threw away his presidency in the end, though, largely because of the character flaws that Anton dismissed or valorized.

In his essay, Anton attacked his conservative enemies as caring only about their careers and money, while throwing in with a rank egoist who fetishizes his wealth and status, who didn't

matter of weeks. Reducing the “push factors” is an important part of the mix, though even Pollyanna would recognize that endemic corruption in the region is a strong headwind to success.

Other elements of Biden's proposal call for developing better technological methods to monitor the U.S.-Mexico border, improving processing of new arrivals at ports of entry and expanding efforts to counter international trafficking in people and drugs. The plan doesn't give as much attention to border security as conservatives typically demand, however. And based on overviews of the proposal, it appears to ignore the problem of people who arrive legally but then don't leave once the visa expires, which accounts for half of the people who fall into undocumented status.

One notable component missing from Biden's proposed legislative reforms: Dismantling the nation's unnecessary, inhumane and mostly privatized system for detaining immigrants, part and parcel of a longstanding (and bipartisan) U.S. policy that some

care enough about his supporters or his own political cause to work harder in office or moderate his behavior, who led his most committed supporters into a box canyon of lies and conspiracy theories after the election because he couldn't admit that he lost.

What made Anton's essay so bracing was its undercurrent of nihilism, a sense that character and norms no longer matter, not when we are engaged in an existential struggle for power.

Trump has acted in keeping with an exaggerated version of this ethic, throwing aside truth and the law in pursuit of a second term to which he is not entitled.

We have seen that this path isn't suited to saving the republic, but to tearing it apart and embarrassing it before the world. It can't and shouldn't work, and produced an immediate backlash and second impeachment.

This is not really fighting. It is giving up.

people desperately seeking asylum or the chance for a better life must be deprived of their freedom while the government considers their cases. But the vast majority of detainees pose no risk of fleeing or threatening public safety, and depriving them of their freedom because they seek protections is grotesquely unjust.

There are, of course, no quick fixes to the broken immigration system, which rivals the tax code in its complexity. The specifics of Biden's proposed legislation will emerge and be debated in the coming weeks or months, and we fervently hope the reform effort doesn't get caught up in the same web of resistance that has doomed previous efforts. A Democratic president proposing an immigration overhaul to a Congress in which not even the Democrats are unified means this will be a long slog. But Congress must seize the moment.

CONGRESS






From Page 8

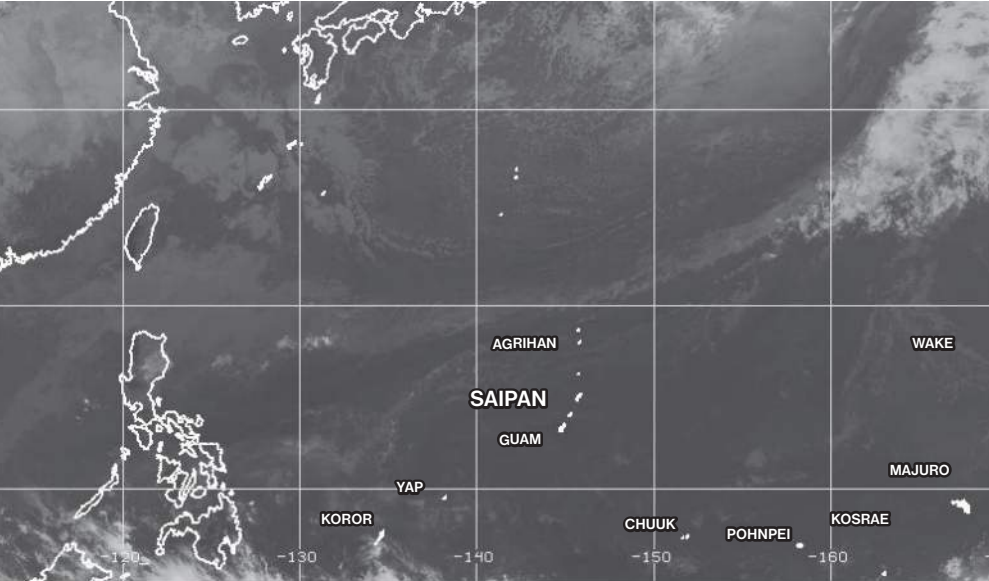
that reality while also ensuring that migrants who credibly pose a risk to public safety do not remain.

Trump's sweeping enforcement policies have left us with a backlog of 1.3 million cases in immigration courts, which is more than double the backlog he inherited from Obama, with the average wait time of 2.4 years for pending cases. Offering temporary legal status and a path to citizenship would radically reduce that caseload and the delay in resolving cases.

Biden also would use financial aid again to try to stabilize the governments and economies of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, where migrants have been leaving in the tens of thousands to escape crime and grinding poverty exacerbated by the effects of climate change, including two major hurricanes this season in a

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
87°	77°	86°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:32 AM, MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Another quiet morning across the Marianas, with gentle to moderate trades, isolated light showers and combined seas of 4 to 6 feet. A shear line is seen on satellite imagery southeast of Iwo To island.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	85° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 76°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	83° / 78°	
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:12 PM
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:12 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:13 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:13 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:14 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:22 AM	3:51 PM
Wednesday	-	5:16 AM	4:45 PM
Thursday	-	6:10 AM	5:43 PM
Friday	-	7:02 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	-	7:51 AM	7:39 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	79° / 70°	
Beijing	Sunny	41° / 19°	
Hong Kong	Showers	59° / 52°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 70°	
London	Showers	54° / 45°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	85° / 57°	
Manila	Cloudy	88° / 75°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 59°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	74° / 61°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	44° / 33°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	43° / 32°	
Paris	Cloudy	45° / 36°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	39° / 28°	
Rome	Sunny	63° / 43°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	60° / 29°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	58° / 47°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	30° / 19°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	43° / 27°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	47° / 27°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
00:08 AM	Low Tide	-0.2	
7:27 AM	High Tide	1.74	
12:29 PM	Low Tide	1.29	
5:10 PM	High Tide	1.82	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.				
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021				
SAIPAN TO ROTA				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1202 8:00 8:15 Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	1203 9:00 9:15 Daily
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun	1204 10:00 10:15 Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1205 11:00 11:15 Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1206 12:00 12:15 Temporarily Unavailable
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1207 13:00 13:15 Temporarily Unavailable
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	1208 14:00 14:15 Daily
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun	1209 15:00 15:15 Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				1210 16:00 16:15 Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211 17:00 17:15 Daily
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	1212 17:00 17:15 Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	

Business

La Vista Pizza & Chicken is now open

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

La Vista Pizza & Chicken located along Beach Road in Chalan Piao across Bank of Guam is your new go-to place when it comes to delicious pizza and mouth-watering fried chicken. After traveling the world, owner Eugene Hong believes that you can't go wrong with the combination of pizza and chicken because these are international favorites.

"La Vista used to serve Korean- and Chinese-style food. When I took over, I also thought about serving real traditional Korean-style dishes but realized there are too many of them that are already here and I cannot compete with them. So I thought, what is the next best thing that people on Saipan love? Pizza and chicken," he said.

"There is no doubt that everyone loves pizza and chicken—young, old, man, woman, etc. and on Saipan where cultural diversity is prominent, no matter where you are from, you know pizza and chicken... that is why I chose this menu," he added.



BEA CABRERA

Delicious and affordable, La Vista Pizza & Chicken's signature dish comes with a medium side or sweet potato edge.



La Vista Pizza & Chicken is open Monday-Saturday from 11am to 8pm.

BEA CABRERA

Originally from Korea, Hong left for the U.S. in 1989 and took with him knowledge and experience in working at his friend's pizza shop in Korea. "I was hoping one day I would have my

own pizza place but through those years, I owned a bar in Queens, New York and when I came to Saipan 12 years ago to start a new life, I went into the boating industry and operated 'Jambalaya' boating services," he said.

"Due to the pandemic, we don't have tourists and the boating business remained still and this is when I thought of going back to what I wanted to do—to open a pizza restaurant. After 30 years, here I am," he added.

La Vista Pizza is unique from other pizza places on Saipan because of its sweet

potato edge. "Instead of cheese or potato, I am using sweet potato that is readily available in the CNMI. Aside from taste and texture, the sweet potato

edge gives a slice of pizza another flavor—a sweet

one that helps cleanse your palate so your taste buds can be ready for another slice... we put it on a hot plate so our pizza stays fresh and warm until the last bite," Hong said.

"Our fried chicken is Ko-

rean style—crispy, flavorful, and juicy... Our sauce, herbs, and spices come from Korea...both pizza and chicken are easy to eat and with our pizza toppings and different chicken flavors, it's definitely filling," Hong added.

Affordability is also one of La Vista Pizza & Chicken's main attraction. One medium pizza (eight slices) goes for only \$15 and sweet potato edge pizza is only \$20. Toppings include Supreme, pepperoni, cheese-lover's, meat-

lover's, Hawaiian, Vegetarian Delight, Chicken Pizza, La Vista Combo, Saipan Special, and Fisherman Supreme.

One whole chicken is only \$20 and half is only \$10. Flavors include Crunch Fried Chicken, Garlic Soy Sauce Chicken, Seasoning Chicken, Curry Fried Chicken, and Spicy Chicken.

"We also have snacks available like our Homemade Burger, Walnut & Black Bean Ball (10 pcs), Cheese Ball, Hoddok (Korean black sugar hot cake), waffle (with ice cream or chocolate), red bean shave ice, and French fries all below \$6. Future plans include adding bento and porridge [meals]," Hong said.

"We had a soft-opening in Jan. 12 and we hope that people will come and try La Vista Pizza and Chicken. We are continuously improving our food items and menu... we accept private parties and celebrations...we are open for dine-in, take-out and once we get our permit to offer delivery service, we will do that as well..." Hong added.

La Vista Pizza & Chicken is open Monday-Saturday from 11am to 8pm. For more information, call (670) 235-9292.



La Vista Pizza & Chicken follows health and safety protocols set by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force.

BEA CABRERA

White House begins talks with lawmakers on COVID-19 relief

WASHINGTON (AP)—Top aides to President Joe Biden on Sunday began talks with a group of moderate Senate Republicans and Democrats on a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package as Biden faces increasing headwinds in his effort to win bipartisan backing for the initial legislative effort of his presidency.

Lawmakers on the right question the wisdom of racking up bigger deficits while those on the left are urging Biden not to spend too much time on bipartisanship when the pandemic is killing thousands of Americans each day and costing more jobs amid tightening restrictions in many communities.

At least a dozen senators met for an hour and 15 minutes in a virtual call with White House National Economic Council director Brian Deese and other senior White House officials. Many hope

to approve a relief package before former President Donald Trump's trial, which is set to begin in two weeks, overtakes Washington's attention.

Sen. Angus King, an independent from Maine, called the opening talks a "serious effort."

"There was not a hint of cynicism or lack of commitment to at least trying to work something out," King said. "If they were just trying to jam this through, I don't think it would have interrupted the Packers game."

King told reporters that there was "absolute consensus" among the group that the No. 1 priority was to speed up the distribution of vaccinations and expanding COVID-19 testing and tracing.

The White House did not seem to budge on breaking up the package or reducing the overall price tag, even as it pushes for bipartisan support. There was

also no discussion of pushing it through on a procedural move that could be done without Republicans, King said.

One key Republican, Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, said afterward, "It seems premature to be considering a package of this size and scope."

Collins said instead she would pull the bipartisan group together "and see if we could come up with a more targeted package." She said in a statement that a bill with additional funding for vaccine distribution "would be useful."

Senators from both parties raised questions about the economic aid provisions, particularly making direct \$1,400 payments to Americans more tailored to recipients based on need.

Senators also wanted more data on how the White House reached the \$1.9 trillion figure.

Russian hack of US agencies exposed supply chain weaknesses

WASHINGTON (AP)—The elite Russian hackers who gained access to computer systems of federal agencies last year didn't bother trying to break one by one into the networks of each department.

Instead, they got inside by sneaking malicious code into a software update pushed out to thousands of government agencies and private companies.

It wasn't surprising that hackers were able to exploit vulnerabilities in what's known as the supply chain to launch a massive intelligence gathering operation. U.S. officials and cybersecurity experts have sounded the alarm for years about a problem that has caused havoc, including billions of dollars in financial losses, but has defied easy so-

lutions from the government and private sector.

"We're going to have to wrap our arms around the supply-chain threat and find the solution, not only for us here in America as the leading economy in the world, but for the planet," William Evanina, who resigned last week as the U.S. government's chief counterintelligence official, said in an interview. "We're going to have to find a way to make sure that we in the future can have a zero-risk posture, and trust our suppliers."

In general terms, a supply chain refers to the network of people and companies involved in the development of a particular product, not dissimilar to a home construction project that relies on a contractor and a web of sub-

contractors. The sheer number of steps in that process, from design to manufacture to distribution, and the different entities involved give a hacker looking to infiltrate businesses, agencies and infrastructure numerous points of entry.

This can mean no single company or executive bears sole responsibility for protecting an entire industry supply chain. And even if most vendors in the chain are secure, a single point of vulnerability can be all that foreign government hackers need. In practical terms, homeowners who construct a fortress-like mansion can nonetheless find themselves victimized by an alarm system that was compromised before it was installed.

Nation

Biden to reinstate COVID travel rules, add South Africa

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden on Monday will formally reinstate COVID-19 travel restrictions on non-U.S. travelers from Brazil, Ireland, the United Kingdom and 26 other European countries that allow travel across open borders, according to two White House officials.

The officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the order, also confirmed Sunday that South Africa would be added to the restricted list because of concerns about a variant of the virus that has spread beyond that nation.

Biden is reversing an order from President Donald Trump in his final days in office that called for the relaxation of the travel restrictions as of Tuesday.

The decision to reverse the order is not surprising, but the addition of South Africa to the restricted travel list highlights the new administration's concern about mutations in the virus.

The South Africa variant has not been discovered in the United States, but another variant—originating in the



President Joe Biden departs after attending mass at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021, in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington.

United Kingdom—has been detected in several states.

Reuters was first to report

Biden's decision to add South Africa to the list.

Biden last week issued

an executive order directing federal agencies to require international air travelers to

quarantine upon U.S. arrival. The order also requires that all U.S.-bound passengers ages 2

and above get negative COVID-19 test results within three days before traveling.

US police weigh officer discipline after rally, Capitol riot

For two Virginia police officers who posed for a photo during the deadly U.S. Capitol insurrection, the reckoning has been swift and public: They were identified, charged with crimes and arrested.

But for five Seattle officers the outcome is less clear. Their identities still secret, two are on leave and three continue to work while a police watchdog investigates whether their actions in the nation's capital on Jan. 6 crossed the line from protected political speech to lawbreaking.

The contrasting cases highlight the dilemma faced by police departments nationwide as they review the behavior of dozens of officers who were in Washington the day of the riot by supporters of President Donald Trump. Officials and experts agree that officers who were involved in the melee should be fired and charged for their role.

But what about those officers who attended only the Trump rally before the riot? How does a department balance an officer's free speech rights with the blow to public trust that comes from the attendance of law enforcement at an event with far-right militants and white nationalists who went on to assault the seat of American

democracy?

An Associated Press survey of law enforcement agencies nationwide found that at least 31 officers in 12 states are being scrutinized by their supervisors for their behavior in the District of Columbia or face criminal charges for participating in the riot. Officials are looking into whether the officers violated any laws or policies or participated in the violence while in Washington. A Capitol Police officer died after he was hit in the head with a fire extinguisher as rioters descended on the building and many other officers were injured. A woman was shot to death by Capitol Police and three other people died after medical emergencies during the chaos.

Most of the officers have not been publicly identified; only a few have been charged. Some were identified by online sleuths. Others were reported by their colleagues or turned themselves in.

They come from some of the country's largest cities—three Los Angeles officers and a sheriff's deputy, for instance—as well as state agencies and a Pennsylvania police department with nine officers. Among them are an Oklahoma sheriff

and New Hampshire police chief who have acknowledged being at the rally, but denied entering the Capitol or breaking the law.

"If they were off-duty, it's totally free speech," said Will Aitchison, a lawyer in Portland, Oregon, who represents law enforcement officers. "People have the right to express their political views regardless of who's standing next to them. You just don't get guilt by association."

But Ayesha Bell Hardaway, a professor at Case Western Reserve University law school, said an officer's presence at the rally creates a credibility issue as law enforcement agencies work to repair community trust, especially after last summer's protests against police brutality sparked by the police killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor.

Communities will question the integrity of officers who attended the rally along with "individuals who proudly profess racist and divisive viewpoints," she said. "It calls into question whether those officers are interested in engaging in policing in a way that builds trust and legitimacy in all communities, including communities of color."

In Rocky Mount, a Virginia town of about 1,000,

Sgt. Thomas Robertson and Officer Jacob Fracker face criminal charges after posting a photo of themselves inside the Capitol during the riot. According to court records, Robertson wrote on social media that the "Left are just mad because we actually attacked the government who is the problem ... The right IN ONE DAY took the f(asterisk)(asterisk)(asterisk)(asterisk) U.S. Capitol. Keep poking us." Robertson said Rocky Mount is firing the officers, the Roanoke Times reported Sunday. The officers had been suspended without pay as of Friday.

Attempts to contact the officers were unsuccessful and court records do not list lawyers. Leaders in Rocky Mount declined to be interviewed. In a statement, they said the events at the Capitol were tragic.

"We stand with and add our support to those who have denounced the violence and illegal activity that took place that day," said Police Chief Ken Criner, Capt. Mark Lovern and Town Manager James Ervin. "Our town and our police department absolutely does not condone illegal or unethical behavior by anyone, including our officers and staff."

5, including pregnant woman, are fatally shot in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Five people, including a pregnant woman, were shot to death early Sunday inside an Indianapolis home in an apparent targeted attack, the city's police chief said, decrying the "mass murder" killings as a "different kind of evil."

The fatal shootings were discovered by police who had been called about 4 a.m. to investigate reports of a person shot on the city's near northeast side but first discovered a juvenile male with gunshot wounds, said Sgt. Shane Foley with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

No suspects were in custody as of Sunday evening.

As officers were investigating that juvenile's shooting, Foley said police received information about 4:40 a.m., that led them to a nearby home, where they found five adults dead inside from apparent gunshot wounds.

One of the five victims was a pregnant woman who was taken to an area hospital, where both she and the unborn child died despite life-saving efforts,

Foley said.

He said the juvenile initially found with gunshot wounds is expected to survive and police believe he was wounded in the shootings that left the five others dead, along with the unborn child.

IMPD Chief Randal Taylor said police believe the deadly shootings were not random, but were a targeted attack carried out by an assailant or assailants.

He said the shooting came days after police department officials had announced their latest efforts to combat violent, drug-related crimes and "violence driven by poverty or desperation."

"But what we saw this morning was a different kind of evil. What happened this morning, based on the evidence that's been gathered so far, was mass murder," Taylor said at a news conference. "More than that, we believe it was not random."

Taylor said it was largest mass casualty shooting in the city in more than a decade, and urged the public to contact police and pass along any information they might have on the killings.

Asia



A government worker wearing personal protective equipment guards at the closed area in Jordan district, in Hong Kong, Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021. AP

New Zealand reports first community case in months

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand has reported its first coronavirus case outside of a quarantine facility in more than two months, although there was no immediate evidence the virus was spreading in the community.

Director-General of Health Ashley Bloomfield said Sunday the case was a 56-year-old woman who recently returned from Europe.

Like other returning travelers, she spent 14 days in quarantine and twice tested negative before being returning home on Jan. 13. She later developed symptoms and tested positive.

He said health officials will conduct genome testing but are working under the assumption that the case is a more transmissible variant of the virus.

He said they are investigating to see whether its pos-

sible she caught the disease from another returning traveler who was staying in the same quarantine facility.

New Zealand has eliminated community transmission of the virus, at least for now. Bloomfield said officials are ramping up contact tracing and testing efforts and hope to have more information about the case in the coming days.

Elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ A Chinese city has completed 2,600 temporary treatment rooms as the country's north battles new clusters of the coronavirus. The single-occupancy rooms in the city of Nangong in Hebei province just outside Beijing are each equipped with their own heaters, toilets, showers and other amenities, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. Special attention has been paid to Hebei because of its proximity to the capital and the province

has locked down large areas to prevent further spread of the virus. The provincial capital Shijiazhuang and the city of Xingtai, which encompasses Nangong, have been largely sealed off. Community isolation and large-scale testing have also been enforced. The National Health Commission on Sunday reported 19 additional cases in Hebei. The far northeastern province of Heilongjiang reported another 29 cases, linked partly to an outbreak at a meat processing plant. Beijing, where around 2 million residents have been ordered to undergo new testing, reported two new confirmed cases. China currently has 1,800 people being treated for COVID-19, 94 of them listed in serious condition, with another 1,017 being monitored in isolation for having tested positive for the virus without displaying symptoms.

Trapped for 2 weeks, 11 workers rescued from China gold mine

BEIJING (AP)—Eleven workers trapped for two weeks inside a Chinese gold mine were brought safely to the surface on Sunday, a landmark achievement for an industry long-blighted by disasters and high death tolls.

State broadcaster CCTV showed workers being hauled up one-by-one in baskets on Sunday afternoon, their eyes shielded to protect them after so many days in darkness.

Some brought their hands together in gratitude and many appeared almost too weak to stand. They were swiftly covered in coats amid freezing temperatures and loaded into ambulances.

Hundreds of rescue workers and officials stood at attention and applauded as the workers were brought up

from the mine in Qixia, a jurisdiction under Yantai in the eastern coastal province of Shandong.

One worker was reported to have died from a head wound following the explosion that deposited massive amounts of rubble in the shaft on Jan. 10 while the mine was still under construction.

The fate of 10 others who were underground at the time is unknown. Authorities have detained mine managers for delaying reporting the accident.

The cause of the accident is under investigation but the explosion was large enough to release 70 tons of debris that blocked the shaft, disabling elevators and trapping workers underground.

Rescuers drilled parallel

shafts to send down food and nutrients and eventually bring up the survivors, 10 of whom had been in a lower chamber and one in a separate area slightly closer to the surface.

The official China Daily newspaper said on its website that seven of the workers were able to walk to ambulances on their own.

Such protracted and expensive rescue efforts are relatively new in China's mining industry, which used to average 5,000 deaths per year. Increased supervision has improved safety, although demand for coal and precious metals continues to prompt corner-cutting. A new crackdown was ordered after two accidents in mountainous southwestern Chongqing last year killed 39 miners.

World

TO PROTEST BOLSONARO

Thousands rally in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Thousands of Brazilians took the streets for a second day Sunday to call for the impeachment of President Jair Bolsonaro, who is under fire for his government's handling of COVID-19, which has raged through the country and claimed more than 216,000 lives.

Horn-honking cars paraded through the streets of Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and a dozen or more other cities as other protesters marched on foot, some calling, "Get out Bolsonaro!"

Sunday's protests were called by conservative groups that had once backed the president, while those on Saturday had come from the left.

"When Bolsonaro arrived, we voted for him for his proposals that we found interesting, but the situation now with the pandemic is terrible", said Meg Fernandes, a 66-year-old engineer who joined a protest in Rio on Sunday.

She said she was especially alarmed by the situation in the northern city of Manaus, where there's a waiting list for hospital intensive-care beds and a shortage of medical oxygen.

"I had already been disappointed last year, but now with the situation in Manaus, I think

(this government) has to stop," she said. "Bye, Bolsonaro."

Thomaz Favaro, a political analyst at consultancy Control Risks, said Bolsonaro faces little risk of impeachment, though that could change if his allies lose a Feb. 2 vote for leadership of the lower house.

"Bolsonaro's base in congress is unstable, but it is robust," he said, though it could be dented by the president's flagging popularity.

But he said impeachment would be "a nuclear option that changes the country's political trajectory."

Bolsonaro—who is midway through his four-year term—has faced renewed criticism in recent weeks for both the crisis in Manaus and for delays in launching Brazil's immunization campaign against COVID-19. The president has long resisted lockdown measures against the new coronavirus, arguing economic damage would be worse than the disease.

Brazil's prosecutor-general, Augusto Aras, on Saturday asked the Supreme Court to open an investigation into Health Minister Eduardo Pazuello over the crisis in Manaus, capital of Amazonas state. Aras cited a document that said the ministry knew of a possible shortage of oxygen

on Jan. 8, but didn't start sending extra supplies until Jan. 12.

A newly released Datafolha survey from Jan. 20-21 showed support for Bolsonaro fell to 37% from 31% in December, the biggest one-month drop since the start of his administration. The number terming his performance bad rose to 40% from 32%. The margin of error was two percentage points.

"We ask for an impeachment of Bolsonaro because it is not just a crime he committed. The way he treated the pandemic—He spent money on ineffective remedies instead of investing in the vaccine and in oxygen", said Tiago Sussekind, a 21-year-old law student who joined the Saturday protest in Rio.

The weekend's demonstrations come as calls for Bolsonaro's impeachment rise, though most analysts consider it unlikely to occur.

Carlos Ayres Britto, former president of the Brazilian Court, former presidential candidate Ciro Gomes and even singer Chico Buarque have called for the president to face impeachment for his response to the pandemic. A leading newspaper, O Estado de Sao Paulo, also published an editorial calling for impeachment on Friday.

Israel targets flights, religious scofflaws, as virus rages

JERUSALEM (AP)—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday said Israel will be closing its international airport to nearly all flights, while Israeli police clashed with ultra-Orthodox protesters in several major cities and the government raced to bring a raging coronavirus outbreak under control.

The entry of highly contagious variants of the virus, coupled with poor enforcement of safety rules in ultra-Orthodox communities, has contributed to one of the world's highest rates of infections. It also has threatened to undercut Israel's highly successful campaign to vaccinate its population against the virus.

In just a month, Israel has vaccinated over a quarter of its 9.2 million people. At the same time, the virus continues to race through the country, with authorities confirming an average of over 8,000 new cases a day.

Late Sunday, the Israeli Cabinet approved a tight closure on nearly all incoming and outgoing air traffic. The government said it would make exceptions for a small number of humanitarian cases

- such as funerals and medical patients - and cargo flights.

"We are closing the skies hermetically, except for really rare exceptions, to prevent the entry of virus mutations, and also to ensure that we progress quickly with our vaccination campaign," Netanyahu said.

The order is to begin early Tuesday and remain in effect until Jan. 31. Netanyahu's office said the order still required parliamentary legislation to be finalized.

Throughout the pandemic, Israel has restricted entry for most foreigners at its main international airport. But it has made exceptions for certain categories of people, including religious students and Israelis returning from abroad, while allowing Israeli tourists to fly to a handful of "green countries" believed to have low rates of the coronavirus.

This limited air travel appears to have allowed highly contagious coronavirus variants from the U.K. and other places to enter Israel. The Health Ministry said Sunday that it had detected the first case of a new coronavirus variant discovered in the U.S.,

brought in by a man who arrived from Los Angeles.

Experts say that a lack of compliance with safety regulations in Israel's ultra-Orthodox sector also has been a major factor in the spread of the virus.

Israeli police have been largely reluctant to confront the ultra-Orthodox community. On Sunday, police clashed with large crowds of ultra-Orthodox protesters in several cities, with an officer firing into the air in one city to keep a large crowd at bay.

Throughout the pandemic, many major ultra-Orthodox sects have flouted safety regulations, continuing to open schools, pray in synagogues and hold mass weddings and funerals despite broader lockdown orders. This has contributed to a disproportionate infection rate: The ultra-Orthodox community accounts for over one-third of Israel's coronavirus cases, despite making up just over 10% of the population.

Israel has recorded over 595,000 cases of the virus since the start of the pandemic and over 4,361 deaths.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW



The 2021 Nissan Rogue features Nissan Safety Shield 360 standard across the entire lineup.

NISSAN/TNS

Nissan Rogue

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

In a culture where nonconformity is the only conformity, and vulgarity and coarseness are trendy, trendiness sells. So it's no surprise that Nissan's most popular product is the Nissan Rogue, at least if you consider its name. Yet there's nothing rogue about it. Its popularity stems from the market segment in which it competes: compact crossovers.

Since its launch in 2007, annual sales climbed from 17,808 to more than 350,000 last year, although that's down from more than 412,000 in 2018. But Nissan could easily beat those numbers with the newest iteration of the Rogue, as it endows its allegedly uncouth CUV with an impressive dose of sophistication, making it a far better value proposition than the model it replaces.

The Rogue's fresh wardrobe is boxier than the softer one it has worn for seven years. Its new body is 1.5 inches shorter and 0.2 inches lower than the previous generation Rogue, and Nissan now offers the Rogue in five two-tone combinations. The Rogue's crisp beltline and dashing angled greenhouse suggests speed, which is accented by blacked-out wind-shield pillars, a large chrome "V-Motion" grille surround, LED lighting, and the perfect amount of bright side trim. Its appearance is a bit more truck-like, but with sufficient sportiness and sophistication.

That's particularly true of the cabin, which feels far better crafted than any Nissan in recent memory. Its quality stands apart in a crowded segment, and its design is functional and easy to use without being flashy. Instead, you'll find its materials seem up-market, while its technology is state-of-the-art. Rogue now offers wireless Apple CarPlay, a large wireless smartphone charger, USB Type-C and Type-A charging ports, a full-color 10.8-inch head-up display, 12.3-inch digital gauge

For 2021, the Rogue will once more be offered in S, SV and SL grades, joined by a new, indulgent Platinum model. Front-wheel drive is standard; all-wheel drive is optional. Regardless of trim level, you'll get the same driveline: a 2.5-liter double-overhead-cam four-cylinder engine mated to a continuously variable automatic transmission that generates 181 horsepower. Nissan's Safety Shield 360 driver assistance safety technology is standard and includes automatic emergency braking with

the indecisiveness nature so typical of CVTs. Then again, it doesn't tempt you to over-indulge, to eagerly gun it and revel in the joy of driving. But its steering is quick, inspiring confidence as the Rogue grips the road with authority. Its self-assured demeanor is enhanced by the quiet cabin and a comfortable ride that were impressive. While not sporty in character, its mainstream attitude is appealing.

The seats are roomy and comfortable in both rows, and there are ample places to stash things. The rear cargo hold is similarly spacious, despite giving up three cubic feet to the 2020 model. S and SV models come cloth seat trim, although leatherette is optional on the SV. SL and Platinum models wear leather upholstery, with the latter getting semi-aniline skins with diamond-quilted stitching. Other niceties include a panoramic glass roof, three-zone automatic climate control, heated front seats, and a heated steering wheel.

It makes an extraordinarily impressive update to a vehicle that has never stood apart from the crowd. Now, its vast range of capabilities make it far more competitive with the best compact crossovers in the class, and one you must drive. No, it's not sporty, but extremely proficient no matter what you ask of it.

It may not be a rogue, but this Nissan is an strikingly updated Rogue.

NUTS & BOLTS

2021 NISSAN ROGUE

- Base price: \$25,650-\$36,830
- Engine: 2.5-liter DOHC four-cylinder
- Horsepower/Torque: 181/181
- EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 27/35 mpg
- Observed fuel economy: 29 mpg
- Fuel required: 89 Octane
- Length/Width/Height: 183/72.4/66.5 inches
- Ground clearance: 8.2 inches
- Cargo capacity: 31.6-74.1 cubic feet
- Towing capacity: 1,350 pounds

cluster and a large, nine-inch touchscreen that houses navigation, audio controls, climate information, Google Maps, Waze, a rearview monitor and an optional 360-degree monitor. The screens graphics are clear and easy to use, and its two large tuning knobs and shortcut buttons enhance the system's ease of use. Kudos to Nissan for doing what Toyota and Honda find impossible: making a touchscreen system clear and easy to use.

pedestrian detection, blind spot warning, rear cross traffic alert, lane departure warning, high beam assist and rear automatic braking. Nissan's Pro-Pilot Assist semi-autonomous driving system is optional on the Rogue SL and standard on the Platinum.

Nissan's naturally aspirated engine isn't turbocharged like some of its competitors, yet it still provides a seamless flow of power, with the CVT providing timely shifts that lack

By BOB WEBER

Tribune News Service



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com

Motormouth: Fog lights

Q I enjoy reading your weekly column. Apparently, so much, that while cleaning the basement yesterday, I found four issues of the Chicago Tribune from late 2013. I decided to read your column anyway as the problems may still be applicable.

In the December 29, 2013 edition, someone wrote to complain about people who used their fog lights when the weather was good and made it hard for him to see. You agreed that people should not do this. I always thought that the fog lights were located down low and had a short range that was aimed low to avoid the light getting reflected back at you when it was foggy like regular headlights. I can't see why this would be a problem for oncoming drivers.

—W.F., Schaumburg, Ill.

A As you said, if they are installed properly and aimed properly, fog lights should not glare into oncoming vehicles. Mounted low, below the regular headlights, they have a wider beam that is cut off at the top to prevent the light from reflecting off the fog. That reflection is also why the high beams will go off when the fog lights are turned on.

Unless they are switched off, the fog lights usually come on whenever the headlights come on. Some car owners think the fog lights look cool, so they turn them on, even in daylight. They may not even know that the fogs are lit.

Q I recently bought a 2009 (base model) PT Cruiser with only 60,000 miles to drive while wintering in Arizona. I've seen Internet postings that indicate a 340 error code is not terribly unusual to encounter and/or engine problems associated with surging, hesitating and/or stalling.

As precaution, I have bought a new OEM Camshaft Position Sensor. But, should I keep it available in case of part failure, or just go ahead and swap out old for new? The sensor seems to be relatively easy to access and replace for a do-it-yourself mechanic, but the car starts and runs fine.

—G.H., Marion, Iowa

A It is nice to have a spare sensor when you need one. The same goes for a spare tire. But you wouldn't install the spare tire unless it was necessary. So ...

Q I was trying to find a good solution to removing tree sap from my Silverado. Any ideas please?

—J.D., Roscoe, Ill.

A Since sap quit flowing months ago, the stuff on your car has had time to harden making removal difficult. You may have some helpful stuff around the house. WD40 or lighter fluid are common solutions. We have heard that people even use bacon grease or lard.

Whatever you try, allow it to sit on the spots until they soften. For a more aggressive approach, try acetone (found in some nail polish removers) or paint thinner. The easiest method is to pay a professional detailer to do the job. To protect the finish, wash and wax your vehicle as soon as possible.

Q I was amused by your answer to the gentleman who wanted to know a way to ensure that his wife's gas tank is filled without topping it off, as it involved a good deal of math. My solution is simpler: When I fill my tank, I set the pump to the fastest delivery of gasoline and wait for it to shut off. Then I set it to the slowest delivery and wait for the second shutoff. Works like a charm!

—M.G., Boca Raton, Fla.

A Nice hack and one that I had never heard of.

Life & Style

Tom Brokaw

says he's retiring from NBC News after 55 years

NEW YORK (AP)—Long-time NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw, once television news' most popular broadcaster as he told viewers about the biggest events of that late 20th Century, said Friday that he's retiring from television.

Brokaw, who is 80, said he'll continue writing books and articles. He's the author of "The Greatest Generation," about those who fought World War II.

In a final essay that appeared on MSNBC's "Morning Joe"

on Dec. 30, Brokaw hinted at his announcement by reflecting on a career that took him from breaking into a local newscast in Nebraska and announcing the death of President John F. Kennedy, to coronavirus.

"For me, it's been an amazing journey—57 years as a reporter," Brokaw said.

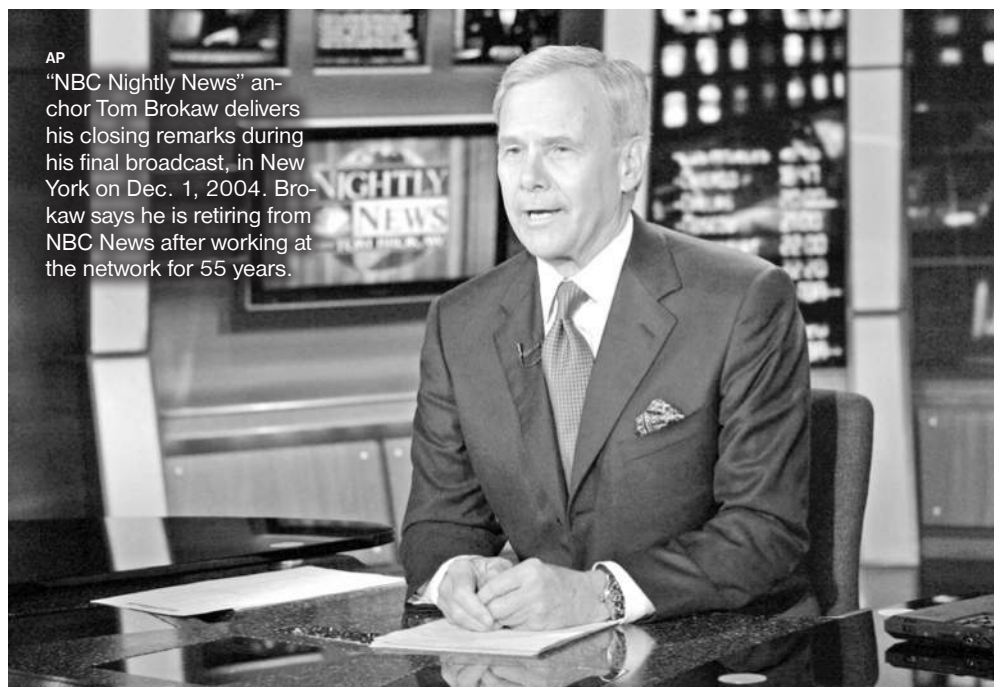
Fifty-five of those years were at NBC News, starting as a reporter in Los Angeles in the 1960s, covering the White House during the Nixon administration, hosting the "To-

day" show in the late 1970s and more than 20 years as "Nightly News" anchor.

For two decades, the triumvirate of Brokaw, ABC's Peter Jennings and CBS' Dan Rather were the nation's most visible broadcasters, anchoring major stories like the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the disputed 2000 election and the fall of the Berlin Wall.

After giving way at "Nightly News" to Brian Williams in 2004, Brokaw concentrated primarily on historical programming and commentary during big moments, like elections.

For health reasons, his appearances have been more sporadic lately. In 2013, Bro-



kaw was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, an incurable blood cancer that affects the bone marrow. He did not return a message seeking comment on Friday.

During his final essay last month, Brokaw reviewed some

of the events of 2020. He took a swipe at former President Donald Trump and his "bizarre refusal" to accept the election results. "Before too long, his principal audience will be his caddies," he said.

Brokaw said the corona-

virus pandemic, which has killed more than 400,000 Americans in the past year, was the country's greatest test since the Civil War.

"We still have miles to go and no assurances of just how it will all turn out," he said.

From presidents to faded stars, all were welcomed by Larry King

NEW YORK (AP)—Larry King was easy to poke fun at, particularly late in his career at CNN: the pinched look, guffaws and coke-bottle glasses, the suspenders and old-time microphone on the desk in front of him.

He was grandpa trying to dance to Drake at a wedding.

But at least grandpa tried, didn't he? And if you sat down to talk with him, he could take you places with his words, and you would enjoy the journey. You'd certainly be sorry if he wasn't there.

Hearing about King's death Saturday at age 87 stirred a similar feeling. The Brooklyn-born King was a classic conversationalist, a throwback to a different era in showbiz and media even during the height of his on-air career.

For 25 years until 2010,

"Larry King Live" was a fixture on CNN's weeknight schedule, and that was after a lengthy career as a late-night radio host. King talked to politicians and musicians, the serious and the silly, not as a newsman but as anyone would if suddenly thrust into the room with a famous face.

Sometimes it felt that way; King would never be accused of over-preparing for an interview. Journalists at CNN gnashed their teeth at missed opportunities to show off their toughness and knowledge if they'd been in his place asking questions of premiers or presidents.

He described himself as a minimalist whose chief goal was to make his guests look good. "I ask short questions," he said once. "I have no pretense at intellectuality."

Wilkerson's 'Caste' among finalists for book critics awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Isabel Wilkerson's "Caste," an acclaimed biography of Malcolm X and fiction by Martin Amis and the late Randall Kenan are among this year's finalists for National Book Critics Circle prizes.

The critics circle announced five nominees in each of six competitive categories Sunday, and seven finalists for an award

for best first book. The Feminist Press, whose founder Florence Howe died last year, will receive a lifetime achievement award and has a nominee for criticism: Cristina Rivera Garza's, "Grieving: Dispatches from a Wounded Country." New Republic critic Jo Livingston received a citation for Excellence in Reviewing.

Winners will be announced March 25.

David Ng named executive editor of The Providence Journal

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—The former top editor of The New York Daily News has been tapped as the next executive editor of The Providence Journal.

David Ng succeeds Alan Rosenberg, who retired in December 2020 after more

than four decades working at Rhode Island's largest paper.

The 62-year-old said he hopes to continue the Journal's mission of serving as the "town square for its citizens" to gather to "share our stories and to exchange ideas and de-

bate our opinions."

Lisa Strattan, a vice president of news at Gannett, which owns the Journal, said Ng's "drive to win" and commitment to diversity and inclusion will elevate the Journal's coverage.

fiction reviews editor.

In the NBCC's fiction award category, Amis was nominated for his autobiographical novel "Inside Story" and Kenan, who died in 2020, for the story collection "If I Had Two Wings." The other finalists were Maggie O'Farrell's "Hamnet," Souvankham Thammavongsa's "How to Pronounce Knife" and Bryan Washington's "Memorial."

Ng also previously served as associate managing editor at The New York Post, a former senior news editor at Newsday on Long Island and an assistant managing editor at The Star-Ledger in New Jersey.

Marriage is a sticking point for old friends reconnecting

DEAR ABBY: I've been dating a guy for five years. We were high school classmates and became close friends shortly after that. Abby, he's the man of my dreams. I've been in love with him since we were 16 years old. We married other people, but we are divorced now and we are together.

We are both 46. I want to get married and he knows it. We have discussed it—but every time I bring it up (and I always bring it up, he never does), he has an excuse. He says it's only a piece of paper, we've both already been married, I have some debt, etc.

I have a 19-year-old daughter, and he has two kids, 13 and 11. We all get along, even our exes. I am tired of being just "the girlfriend." This is not how I want to live the rest of my life. I have always wanted to be his wife.

He's a good man. He treats me great, is respectful, considerate and I love him so much. Must I suck it up and live and die as his girlfriend or leave because he doesn't want to get married? If I leave, I have no plans on dating or trying to marry anyone else. I'm fine alone. Please help.

WANTS THE PIECE OF PAPER

DEAR WANTS: As you have framed it, your boyfriend—whom you love very much—doesn't want to formalize

the relationship, and if you break things off, you don't plan to become involved with anyone else. If you are asking me for magic words that will convince your marriage-phobic boyfriend to make a permanent commitment, you are asking something that isn't possible. If he feels as strongly about you as you do him, he may come around one day, but there are no guarantees. And yes, you will have to "suck it up" if you're not prepared to leave, and while you're doing that, make the best of it.

DEAR ABBY: I've been dating a beautiful woman for a year now. We have fallen deeply in love. We have the kind of relationship that one can only dream of, and we couldn't be happier.

I've bought her some jewelry, including rings, to show her my love. She wears them, but she also wears jewelry, including rings, from past relationships. I told her this bothers me. She said those items don't have any sentimental value, she just likes them. I have no doubt she means that.

Should I overlook this and not let it bother me, or should I be more persistent?

EXPRESSION OF LOVE

DEAR EXPRESSION: Your feelings are your feelings.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Seeing your lady friend enjoy jewelry she received from other men bothers you. You have told her as much. While at one time the items were symbols of the affection her ex (exes?) had for her, to her they are now just jewelry. If you want to continue the relationship with her, place less importance on the baubles. They have nothing to do with you or the relationship you both enjoy now.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



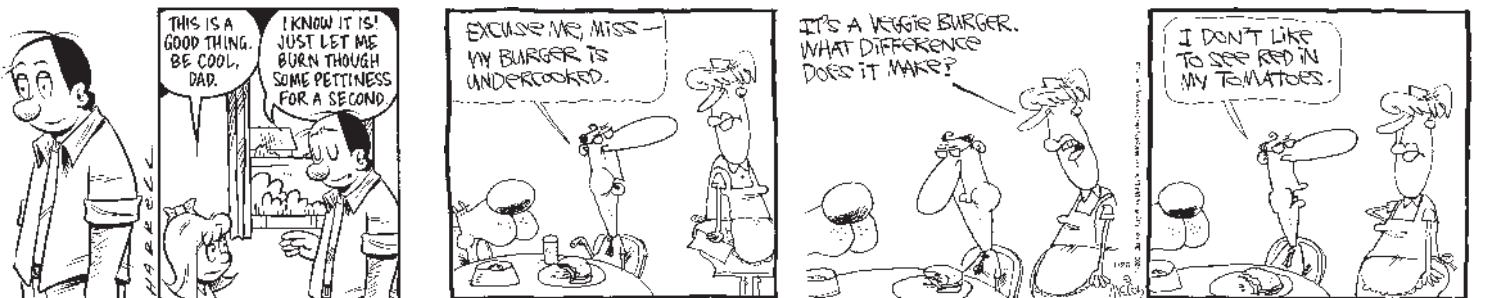
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ancient Brit

5 Six-pack muscles

8 Pepper dispenser

12 Hideaway

13 Used a chair

14 Exotic berry

15 Region

16 Clog-busting tools

18 Advertised insistently

20 Available

21 Charged bit

22 "Aladdin" monkey

23 Put in office

26 Bird's feathers

30 Caesar or Vicious

31 Microwave

32 Sass

33 Used tweezers

36 Musical set in Argentina

38 Tramcar contents

39 Motorist's org.

40 Doofus

DOWN

43 Guest of a guest

47 Fruity dessert

49 Lovers' quarrel

50 Mystique

51 Possess

52 Guthrie of folk

53 Tennis barriers

54 Caustic cleaner

55 Pitcher Nolan

1 Disco guy on "The Simpsons"

8 Large champagne bottle

9 "Law & Order: SVU" actor

10 Yuri Zhivago's love

11 Speak like

17 Celebrity chef

1 Matsuhisa

19 Understood

3 Stead

4 Dire

5 Colorado ski resort

6 Hairy no more

25 Sch. URL

26 Knee protector

27 "The Greatest"

28 "Shoo!"

29 Clean air org.

31 Wye follower

34 They give one pause

35 Ray of McDonald's

36 Water (Fr.)

37 Pough-keepsie college

39 Coeur d'Alene

40 Bridge

41 Crossword hint

42 In pain

43 Tree-lined rte.

44 Grand Ole —

45 "The Lion King" lion

46 Harrow rival

48 "You've got mail" co.

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-26

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Colin O'Donoghue, 40; Sara Rue, 42; Ellen DeGeneres, 63; Anita Baker, 63.

Happy Birthday: Let your creative imagination take over, and you'll come up with ideas that will improve your living space, relationships and outlook. Listen to suggestions, mull over your intentions and pursue your goals with integrity and the desire to make your life better. A change of pace will be enlightening. Embrace new beginnings. Your numbers are 9, 17, 24, 28, 34, 37, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be conscious of what's happening around you. Listen, respond thoughtfully and look for solutions that are fair and doable. Learn from mistakes, and make adjustments that will help you achieve the success you desire. Keep your emotions in check. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep life simple. Don't alter your life because of what someone else does. Use your imagination, and you'll come up with a plan that will uniquely utilize your skills. Take ownership of your life and the moves you make. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Seek refuge in what you know and what you can do, not what others want. Manage your money smartly, and don't make donations you cannot afford. Take better care of yourself, your interests and your possessions. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put more thought into how you do a job or take care of your responsibilities. Taking a different approach will draw the attention of

someone influential. Don't be afraid to ask direct questions and make fundamental decisions based on facts. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep your secrets to yourself. Someone will use personal information against you if you are too trusting. Look for ways to stabilize your life professionally, financially and personally. Spend less; focus on saving and personal growth. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll get help when needed. A friendly gesture will bring high returns. Fitness, self-improvement and getting up close and personal with someone special are favored. Be the one to formulate a plan and put it in motion. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotions will surface if you mix business with pleasure. Choose your words carefully, and direct your energy into something constructive. Use your imagination and take positive action; you'll gain respect and the support needed to reach your goal. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Do your own thing. Refuse to let anyone draw you into a situation that is impossible or will leave you perplexed and unsure of what to do next. Soul-searching will lead to self-improvement and greater confidence. Romance will enhance your life. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A change at home may be upsetting, but in the end, you'll adjust to the way things turn out. It's time to embrace new beginnings and discard what no longer works for you. A change

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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of scenery will be enlightening. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The changes you make should result in greater comfort at home or to the way you live and work. Look over your options and weigh the pros and cons. Ask for the approval of anyone affected by what you do. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Refuse to let negativity set in, regardless of what those around you do or say. Be the one in control of your emotions, and set a standard for others. An optimistic attitude will help you draw people who share your enthusiasm. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Make changes at home to suit your needs. Feeling comfortable will ease stress and encourage you to do things that make you happy. Reach out to someone who makes a difference in your life. Romance is in the stars. ★★★★★

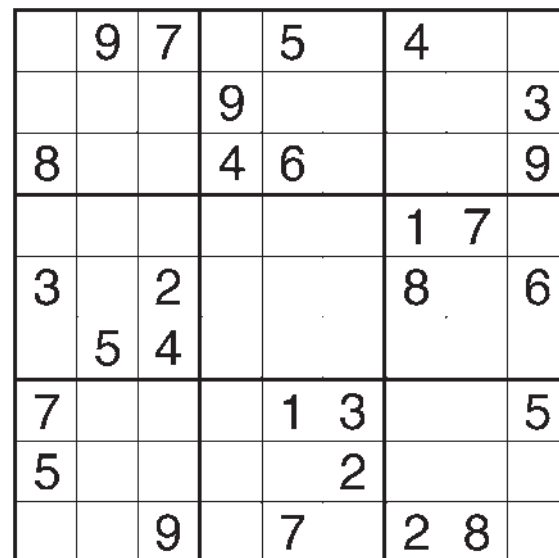
Birthday Baby: You are excitable, playful and complicated. You are tenacious and chic.

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SUDOKU

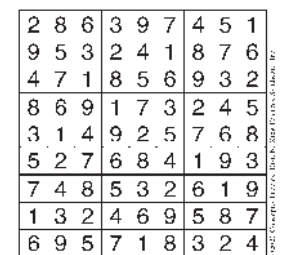
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

1/26

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

EMPLOYEE EVALUATIONS

Solution: 7 letters

R P R N O I T C A R I N G C K
E E S E R E E P R C O E H O C
S R C K E N G I S I H E T A A
P F S O S R R R T B C I C C B
O O K S M A A A O K O E E H D
N R I T U M T C L W U J J V E
S M L R U C E I N S T S O P E
I A L O E P S I N S A V H R O F
B N S P H T N I D A T A P S E
I C X P T I F I D A L E L I C
L E Q U A L I T Y U T E A T I
I E S S P S L A O G T I N I V
T T S I O V E R A L L I O O R
Y C E T A V I T O M W S E N E
B N S R O R R E P O R T S S S

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1/26

Achieve, Action, Boss, Career, Caring, Chat, Checklist, Coach, Data, Discuss, Duties, Errors, Expectation, Feedback, File, Goals, Growth, Input, Issue, Jobs, Motivate, Note, Overall, Path, Peer, Performance, Plan, Position, Post, Project, Quality, Raise, Recommendations, Reports, Responsibility, Sale, Service, Sign, Skills, Support, Target, Tasks

Last Friday's Answer: Vineyards
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 61 order on me at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Buccaneers, Chiefs reach Super Bowl



GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—

Tom Brady has a new team, in a new town. The destination is the same: another Super Bowl.

At home, too.

The man with six NFL titles will become the first quarterback to play a Super Bowl on his team's home field. He owes the Tampa Bay defense that sacked Aaron Rodgers five times, and a curious late call on fourth-and-goal by the Packers as Brady and the Bucs beat top-seeded Green Bay 31-26 for the NFC title Sunday.

"It's great to get another road win and now we got a home game, and who would have ever thought a home Super Bowl for us," Brady said. "But we did it."

"I thought the defense was spectacular. They've done that all year."

The Bucs (14-5) will face the Kansas City Chiefs (16-2) at Tampa's Raymond James Stadium on Feb. 7. No, a host team in the Super Bowl has never happened in 54 previous games.

"We're coming home," said Bucs coach Bruce Arians, whose first NFL coaching job was as an assistant in 1989 with Kansas City, and won two league Coach of the Year awards, with Indianapolis in 2012, Arizona in 2014. He will make his first trip to the Super Bowl as a head coach. "We're coming home to win."

Brady is back in his first year at Tampa Bay after reaching this stage nine times with the New England Patriots. He went 20 of 36 for 286 yards and three touchdowns, but also threw three interceptions as Tampa Bay squandered most of an 18-point lead. Shaquil Barrett and Jason Pierre-Paul combined for five sacks to help the Bucs hang on for their franchise-record eighth consecutive road victory.

It's quite a step up for a team that had one winning record in the last nine seasons.

"Tom is the GOAT (greatest of all time)," said Bucs receiver Scotty Miller, who caught a 39-yard touchdown pass with 1 second left until halftime. "Last year, we ended 7-9. This year, we're going to the Super Bowl. He's the biggest reason."

The Bucs snapped Green Bay's seven-game winning streak. They were aided by a strange decision from Packers coach Matt LaFleur with just over two minutes remaining in a 31-23 game.

After three straight incompletions had the Packers facing fourth-and-goal from the 8, the Packers elected to kick



a field goal to get within five.

"Anytime it doesn't work out you always regret it,

right?" LaFleur said. "It was just circumstance of having three shots and coming away

with no yards. And knowing that you not only need the touchdown but you'd need the

2-point. The way I was looking at it is we essentially had four timeouts with the 2-min-

Different Super Bowl 55 awaits old Brady, young Mahomes

WISCONSIN (AP)—For Tom Brady, another trip to the Super Bowl—but this time, in a Tampa Bay uniform.

And for his new team, the Buccaneers, a first-of-its-kind home game, but without the usual home-field advantage.

To put a bow on this make-it-up-as-we-go NFL season — a campaign upended but never fully undone by the coronavirus pandemic — it comes as no surprise that there is no such thing as a straightforward storyline.

Because of restrictions in place due to COVID-19, Tampa Bay's home stadium will only be about a quarter full when the Buccaneers host the Kansas City Chiefs on Feb. 7 in the Super Bowl. The Chiefs opened as a 3.5-point favorite.

The 43-year-old Brady will expand on his record by playing in his 10th Super Bowl, hoping to expand on another record by winning a seventh title, but the first one in his new home of Tampa Bay.

And 25-year-old Patrick Mahomes of the Chiefs will be trying for back-to-back titles, something no quarterback has done since—who else?—Brady, back in his 2003-04 heyday with the New England Patriots.

The showdown will take

place at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida, where Brady's Bucs will be the first team in the 55-year history of the Super Bowl to play on home turf.

"Whoever would've thought a home Super Bowl for us? But we did it," said Brady, who led the wild-card Buccaneers to a 31-26 win over Green Bay on Sunday to make it three straight road playoff wins on the way back home for the Super Bowl.

But home-field advantage won't mean as much as it normally might. This will be the first Super Bowl not played in front of a capacity crowd since the first one — Kansas City vs. Green Bay at the LA Coliseum—in 1967.

In a nod to how the pandemic has changed everything, the crowd for America's No. 1 sports spectacle will be limited to 22,000 in the 75,000-seat stadium, with vaccinated health-care workers getting 7,500 of those precious tickets.

And even the visiting team—the Chiefs—won't be staying in a hotel all week, the way both conference champions usually do for the Super Bowl. ESPN reported that Kansas City doesn't plan to arrive in Tampa until the day before the game.

Most interview availabilities, as they have all season, will take place on Zoom from the teams' hometown practice facilities. The farce that has become the Super Bowl's "Opening Night" media session will be a virtual affair, as well. In short, teams will basically treat this like a regular road game (or, in the case of the Bucs, a regular home game), and the Super Bowl city will not much resemble the overflowing party hub it usually does as the big game approaches.

Despite all that, this has the makings of a good matchup, featuring the league's top (Chiefs) and seventh-rated (Bucs) offenses, each with multiple ways to strike: Receiver Tyreek Hill and tight end Travis Kelce are standouts for KC and former Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski is on Brady's long list of options for Tampa.

It is a rematch of Kansas City's 27-24 win on Thanksgiving weekend in Tampa. In that one, Mahomes threw for 462 yards—269 of them to Hill—to help the Chiefs build an early 17-point lead.

This will be the second high-stakes postseason matchup between Brady and Mahomes. Brady was surgeon-like, leading New Eng-

land to 524 yards in offense in a 37-31 overtime win over the Chiefs in the AFC title game in January 2019.

It gave New England its third straight trip to the Super Bowl, and Brady's last of nine as a member of the Patriots.

In the two seasons since, Kansas City has represented the AFC.

The Chiefs have done it largely on the arm of Mahomes, though it's his head and his foot that have been making more news of late. He threw for 325 yards and led the Chiefs to a 38-24 victory over Buffalo on Sunday. He did it despite a bout with turf toe that flared up at the end of a week he spent in the NFL's concussion protocol.

Mahomes could join Bart Starr, Bob Griese, Terry Bradshaw, Joe Montana, Troy Aikman, John Elway and, of course, Brady on the list of QBs to win two in a row.

As for Brady? He's leading the Buccaneers to only their second Super Bowl; the Bucs won on their first trip, back in 2002. Brad Johnson was the quarterback then. But nobody would mistake Johnson for Brady, who could join Peyton Manning as the only other quarterback to win a Super Bowl with two franchises.

AP
Green Bay Packers' Aaron Jones is tackled by Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Devin White (45) during the first half of the NFC championship NFL football game in Green Bay, Wis., Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021.

ute warning, we knew we needed to get a stop."

Tampa Bay then ran out the clock on the Packers (14-4).

"I understand the thinking above two minutes with all of our timeouts — but it wasn't my decision," Rodgers said.

The Packers lost in the NFC championship game for the fourth time in the last seven seasons. Green Bay hasn't reached the Super Bowl since its 2010 championship season.

It's been quite a ride for Brady and the Bucs. Brady moved to Tampa as a free agent and brought star tight end Rob Gronkowski out of retirement to join him. But with limited practice time with his new teammates because of coronavirus protocols, the Bucs didn't get rolling until after their bye week.

Chiefs 38, Bills 24

In Missouri, showing no lingering effects from his concussion, Patrick Mahomes sliced up Buffalo's secondary with ruthless efficiency, helping Kansas City roll over Josh Allen and the Bills in the AFC championship game.

The reigning Super Bowl MVP finished with 325 yards passing and three touchdowns, most of it to favorite playmakers Travis Kelce and Tyreek Hill, who complemented their star quarterback with a record-setting night of their own.

The Chiefs will face a familiar foe—Tom Brady—and the NFC champ Buccaneers in two weeks in Tampa, Florida.

Kelce finished with 13 catches for 118 yards and two touchdowns, and Hill added nine catches for 172 yards, becoming the first duo in NFL history with consecutive games of at least 100 yards receiving each in a single postseason.

Clyde Edwards-Helaire and Darrel Williams added short TD runs for the Chiefs, who will try to become the eighth franchise and first team since the Brady-led New England Patriots in 2003 and '04 to defend the Lombardi Trophy.

Allen, who had his worst game of the season in a Week 6 loss to the Chiefs, again struggled against the blitzing Kansas City defense. He finished with 287 yards passing with two touchdowns and an interception, but a big chunk of his numbers came as the Bills tried to rally from a 38-15 deficit in the final minutes.

Clippers beat Thunder to extend win streak

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kawhi Leonard scored 34 points and the Los Angeles Clippers beat Oklahoma City 108-101 on Sunday for their seventh consecutive victory and second straight over the Thunder.

Serge Ibaka added 17 points. At 13-4, the Clippers are tied with the Lakers for the best record in the NBA. Leonard's total was one off his season high to go with nine rebounds and eight assists. He had 31 points in LA's 14-point win over the Thunder on Friday night.

"On a night when we weren't making shots, it was a good, tough, grind-out win for us," Clippers coach Tyrone Lue said. "Kawhi had it going so we played through him a lot, especially in the second half. We had to ride him pretty hard just so we could continue to keep the lead."

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander led the Thunder with 23 points against his former team, and George Hill added 22 points. Oklahoma City has lost three in a row and five of six.

"It was a huge improvement from the first game," forward Isaiah Roby said. "We came out with a lot more fight this game."

Hill hit three straight 3-pointers for the Thunder after they trailed by 17 in the fourth. Reggie Jackson turned the ball over and Luguentz Dort fed Gilgeous-Alexander for a dunk that capped 11 consecutive points and cut their deficit to 102-96.

Leonard dunked to stop the Thunder's run. Gilgeous-Alexander dribbled inside and scored, getting the Thunder back within six. Oklahoma City was forced to foul in the closing seconds and Jackson made 4 of 6 free throws to



Los Angeles Clippers' Kawhi Leonard (2) drives against Oklahoma City Thunder's Isaiah Roby (22) during an NBA game at STAPLES Center in Los Angeles, California.

Pacers have lost three of four.

Hornets 107, Magic 104

In Orlando, Gordon Hayward broke a tie with a layup with 0.7 seconds left and scored 39 points in Charlotte's comeback victory over the Magic.

Hayward beat Evan Fournier off the dribble and made the left-handed layup after Orlando's Terrence Ross tied it with a 3-pointer with 8.7 seconds to play.

The teams will meet again Monday night in Orlando.

Nikola Vucevic topped 10,000 career points and finished with 22 points and 13 rebounds for Orlando.

Trail Blazers 116, Knicks 113

In Portland, Damian Lillard had 39 points, including six 3-pointers, and the Trail Blazers jumped out early against New York on the way to the win.

Anfernee Simons added 16 points off the bench for the Blazers, who led by as many as 25 points before seeing their advantage slip away in the final quarter.

Immanuel Quickley scored 31 points off the bench and Julius Randle added 25 for the Knicks.

close it out.

"He did a great job of just getting us the lead," Jackson said of Leonard. "They were loading up on Kawhi and Paul. They did a great job of attacking."

Bucks 129, Hawks 115

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 27 points and 14 rebounds and the Bucks beat Atlanta to snap a two-game losing streak.

Antetokounmpo had eight assists, finishing two shy of a triple-double. Bobby Portis added 21 points, and Khris Middleton had 19 for Milwaukee.

DeAndre Hunter led Atlanta with a career-high 33 points. John Collins had 30 points,

but the short-handed Hawks saw their three-game winning streak end. They were without scoring leader Trae Young (back spasms) and center Clint Capela (sore right hand).

Celtics 141, Cavaliers 103

In Boston, Jaylen Brown scored 20 of his 33 points in the third quarter and the Celtics cruised past Cleveland to snap a three-game losing streak.

Kemba Walker added 21 points, Daniel Theis had 17, Carsen Edwards 15 and Marcus Smart 12 for Boston. Brown played just 19 minutes.

Collin Sexton led Cleveland with 13 points, far below his team-leading average of 26.8,

The Cavaliers had won three in a row.

Spurs 121, Wizards 101

In San Antonio, Patty Mills scored 21 points, Lonnie Walker IV added 16 and the Spurs beat Washington in the Wizards' first game in two weeks.

The Wizards had their previous six games postponed because they did not have enough eligible players due to the NBA's COVID-19 protocols. Washington was playing for the first time since Jan. 11, when it beat visiting Phoenix.

The Wizards still had six players ineligible, and Washington faded down the stretch

as coach Scott Brooks primarily used an eight-man rotation. Bradley Beal scored 31 points, and Russell Westbrook had nine points, eight rebounds and six assists in 25 minutes.

Raptors 107, Pacers 102

In Indianapolis, OG Anunoby scored a season-high 30 points and made three free throws in the final minute to break a tie and help surging Toronto beat Indiana.

The Raptors have won two straight and five of their last six, including this one without injured All-Stars Kyle Lowry and Pascal Siakam.

Myles Turner had 25 points and six blocks for Indiana. The

USA Basketball eyeing 60 players in Olympic pool

MIAMI (AP)—USA Basketball is casting a wider-than-usual net in its roster selection for this summer's rescheduled Tokyo Olympics, two people with knowledge of the situation said Saturday.

Additions to the list in recent weeks include New Orleans' Zion Williamson, Atlanta's Trae Young, Memphis' Ja Morant, Miami's Duncan Robinson and Detroit's Christian Wood.

The people told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the final list has not been revealed publicly.

The additions mean at least 60 players could be on the player-pool list that will be released by USA Basketball in the coming weeks. Most of those are holdovers from the finalists list

that was announced in February 2020 in anticipation of an Olympics last summer.

There were 44 players on that list and almost all of them, with the exception of injured Golden State guard Klay Thompson, are expected to remain in the pool this year.

ESPN first reported that USA Basketball has sent approximately 60 invitations to be part of the player pool. The U.S. men have won gold at the last three Olympics.

Most of the league's biggest American stars—LeBron James, Stephen Curry, Damian Lillard, James Harden, Jimmy Butler, Kyle Lowry, Kyrie Irving and Kevin Durant among them—were part of the player pool last year as well.

James told AP last month he will consider playing in Tokyo and said that playing for Gregg Popovich—the San Antonio Spurs coach who will lead the U.S. in these Olympics—was one reason why.

"It's still possible," James said. "It's not a 0% percent chance, I will say that. I love Coach Pop."

But it remains unclear how the NBA playoffs will affect the team-selection process. The NBA is planning that the latest possible date for the NBA Finals would be July 22, one day before the opening ceremony for the Tokyo Games. USA Basketball is planning a training camp and exhibition games. Camp, if past form holds, would start in early July.

USA Basketball is not planning tryouts and instead is expected to pare the list to a 12-player Olympic team in the coming months, those decisions to be made by a selection committee and based in part on player availability and health.

Doubts over Olympics continue

Japan is publicly adamant that it will stage its postponed Olympics this summer. But to pull it off, many believe the vaccination of its 127 million citizens for the coronavirus is key.

It's an immense undertaking in the best of circumstances and complicated now by an overly cautious decision-making process, bureaucratic roadblocks and a public that has long been deeply wary of vaccines.

Japan hopes to start COVID-19 vaccinations in late February, but uncertainty is growing that a nation ranked among the world's lowest in vaccine confidence can pull off the massive, \$14 billion project in time for the games in July, casting doubt on whether the Tokyo Olympics can happen.

Japan has secured vaccines for all its citizens, and then some, after striking deals with three foreign pharmaceutical makers—Pfizer Inc., AstraZeneca and Moderna Inc. Its swift action was seen as proof of its resolve to stage the games after a one-year postponement because of the pandemic.

The country needs foreign-made vaccines because local development is only in its early stage



NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	12	5	.706	0.0
Boston	9	6	.600	2.0
Brooklyn	10	8	.556	2.5
New York	8	10	.444	4.5
Toronto	7	9	.438	4.5
Central				
Milwaukee	10	6	.625	0.0
Indiana	9	7	.563	1.0
Cleveland	8	8	.500	2.0
Chicago	7	9	.438	3.0
Detroit	3	13	.188	7.0
Southeast				
Atlanta	8	8	.500	0.0
Charlotte	7	9	.438	1.0
Orlando	7	10	.412	1.5
Miami	6	9	.400	1.5
Washington	3	9	.250	3.0
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Pacific				
LA Clippers	13	4	.765	0.0
LA Lakers	13	4	.765	0.0
Phoenix	8	7	.533	4.0
Golden State	8	8	.500	4.5
Sacramento	6	10	.375	6.5
Southwest				
Memphis	7	6	.538	0.0
San Antonio	9	8	.529	0.0
Dallas	8	8	.500	0.5
Houston	6	9	.400	2.0
New Orleans	5	10	.333	3.0
Northwest				
Utah	12	4	.750	0.0
Portland	9	6	.600	2.5
Denver	9	7	.563	3.0
Oklahoma City	6	9	.400	5.5
Minnesota	4	11	.267	7.5
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

Yankees gamble on Pirates pitcher Taillon



NEW YORK
(AP) —The

Yankees made another high-risk offseason addition to their starting rotation, acquiring right-hander Jameson Taillon from the Pittsburgh Pirates on Sunday for four prospects.

Pittsburgh received right-handers Roansy Contreras and Miguel Yajure, infielder Maikol Escotto and outfielder Canaan Smith.

Taillon, 29, has not pitched since May 1, 2019, following his second Tommy John surgery.

New York also has a pending \$11 million, one-year deal with right-hander Corey Kluber, who has pitched just one inning since his right forearm was broken by a comebacker on May 1, 2019. He tore a muscle in his pitching shoulder in his season debut last season.

They hope to join a rotation headed by Gerrit Cole, Taillon's former Pirates teammate, and projected to include Deivi Garcia and Jordan Montgomery.

In addition, Luis Severino is expected to return from Tommy John surgery last Feb.



AP
In this April 25, 2019 file photo, Pittsburgh Pirates starting pitcher Jameson Taillon delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the Arizona Diamondbacks in Pittsburgh.

13 with New York Mets medical director Dr. David Altchek to repair the flexor tendon and have ulnar collateral ligament revision surgery, his second Tommy John procedure.

Pirates general manager Ben Cherington said they weighed "comparing what was on the table now to what we felt like could be down the road given a sort of reasonable expectation of a return and performance. And we just felt like this made sense for us right now."

Taillon was selected by Pittsburgh with the second overall pick in the 2010 amateur draft, but his big league career was delayed by Tommy John surgery with Altchek on April 9, 2014, and sports hernia surgery on July 8, 2015, with Dr. George Eid. He was limited in 2014 to a pair of spring training games and in 2015 to seven extended spring training appearances. He made his big league debut on June 8, 2016, and recovered from surgery in 2017 for testicular cancer.

27 and Domingo Germán is expected back from a domestic violence suspension that caused him to miss last season.

Rookie Clarke Schmidt, who debuted Sept. 4, and Michael King, who made four starts

and five relief appearances last year, also are possibilities.

"Bittersweet day for me over here!" Taillon wrote on Twitter. "Trying to process everything — have SO much to say to the city of Pittsburgh

and my teammates. Also have SO much to say about this incredible opportunity and to the city/fans in New York."

This deal makes it less likely the Yankees will re-sign Masahiro Tanaka, who became a

free agent. New York lost two other starters to free agency, J.A. Happ, who signed with Minnesota, and James Paxton, who remains unsigned.

Taillon was 2-3 with a 4.10 ERA in seven starts during the 2019 season, when he started on opening day for the Pirates. He did not pitch after May 1, going on the injured list with a strained right elbow flexor tendon. He had surgery on Aug.

EARLY

From Page 20

Ezekiel had the same total after prevailing on Heat 1 and settling for second on Heat 2. Kasidee Villagomez rounded out the podium finish in the division after earning 40 points for her third place finish in both heats.

Completing the finishers' list in the Pee wee 1 Class were Bentley Koshiro (30), Tate Manglona (30), Ramon Camacho (27), Rockson Cabrera (27), Keoni Rosario (24), Kaleb Reyes (18), and Baby Joe Santos (18). Koshiro jumped to fourth with his fifth place finish (16 points) on Heat 2, three notches higher than his ranking on Heat 1 (14 points). Reyes and Baby Joe were at the bottom of the rankings, as the former missed Heat 1 and the latter did not race on Heat 2.

Meanwhile, M.J. Camacho, Brooklyn Susulin, and Theresa Borja also delivered in last weekend's kick-off races.

Camacho, who dominated the Minis 2 Class' practice heats for three months, picked up where he left off beating six other riders in the division. He won both heats to notch 50 points and prevail against Ethan Yumul (44), Mari Alvarez (40), Maribel Igitol (36), Aric Cruz (32), Kale Macaranas (30), and Frankie Sablan (28).

In the Minis 1 Class, Devin Yumul also earned 50 points for ruling heats 1 and 2 to take the top spot in the podium. Harley Susulin (44 points) came in at second, while



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brooklyn Susulin approaches the hilly part of the course.

Leighton Palacios edged Kimason Cabrera in the tiebreak for third. Palacios and Cabrera had 38 points each, but the former made it to the podium after placing third on Heat 2.

In the Mini ATV Class, Theresa Borja, who also earned top finish in the pre-season races, completed heats 1 and 2 first to take the division top honors. There was a tie for second place with Nevaeh Camacho winning, as she placed second on Heat 2, while Jesus Santos dropped to third. Camacho and Santos had 42 points apiece to join Borja in the podium, while Melvin Reyes (36) and Cassidy Camacho were the other riders entered in the Mini ATV Class.

In the Pee wee ATV Class, Brooklyn won her one-on-one showdown against Skyler Togawa to start the season on a strong note,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Minis 1 Class winner Devin Yumul is flanked by Harley Susulin, left, and Leighton Palacios at the podium during the awards ceremony in the opening leg of the Marianas Racing Association Point Race Season last Sunday at the CowTown Raceway Park.

BAUTISTA

From Page 20

nines for a gross 90), but slid to third when he recorded a net 74 in the final round after firing a 46 and 47 (gross 93) at Kingfisher.

Meanwhile, other participants in Fil-Taga's club championship were Freddie Cataluna (146), Lito Mendoza (146), Albert Pajarillaga (147), Dan Ganacias (151), Ronnie Santos (153), Edgar Abalos (154), Ed Varias (155), William Retardo (158), and Ernie Lopez (82/did not play in the second round).

Fil-Taga also held its January Ace Tournament last Saturday with Bautista earning twin wins, as his net 65 was five strokes ahead of Jess Yumul's net score. The 26-handicapper Yumul tallied a 47 on the front nines and 49 on the back for a gross 96 and net 70—one shot up against third place Mike Cruz.

Cruz, a 19-handicapper and logged 43 and 47 on the front and back nines, had a closest to the pin shot on hole No. 8. Other closest to the pin winners were Ganacias, Tony Cabrera, and Cataluna on holes No. 6, 12, and 15, respectively.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Henry Bautista, center, receives his trophy from Tony Cabrera, left, and Ruben Avendano during the awards ceremony for the Fil-Taga Golfers Association Ace of Aces Tournament last Saturday.



**Buccaneers,
Chiefs reach
Super Bowl**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Clippers beat
Thunder to
extend win
streak**

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20 TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Early favorites deliver

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The riders to watch in the Marianas Racing Association Point Race Season lived up to expectations early into the competition after ruling their respective events during last Sunday's kick-off leg at the CowTown Raceway Park.



Zane Fujihira clears one of the hills along the course.

JOSEPH CHIN



JOSEPH CHIN

Jonoah Santos, who topped five of MRA's seven practice heats, drew first blood in the Peewee 2 Class after winning both heats in the division. Santos got 25 points each for his victories on heats 1 and 2 to collect 50 in the opening leg and beat Keenon Togawa (44), Trey Manglona (38), and T.J. Ferrer (38). Togawa finished second in both heats,

Jonoah Santos is way ahead of his competitors in the Peewee 2 Class during the opening leg of the Marianas Racing Association Point Race Season last Sunday at the CowTown Raceway Park.

while Manglona was fourth on Heat 1 and beat Ferrer in the tiebreak for third place overall after coming in second on Heat 2. Based on MRA rules, tiebreaks are resolved by getting the results of the second heat.



In the Peewee 1 Class there was also a standoff for first place with Zane Fujihira prevailing over Ezekiel Camacho. Fujihira, which recorded a couple of wins in the practice heats before the season-opening race, dislodged Ezekiel from

the top spot after finishing first in the second heat.

The Peewee 1 Class opening leg winner gained 25 points on Heat 2 and 22 on Heat 1 for his 47 markers.

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By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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Henry Bautista recorded the best net score in the Fil-Taga Golfers Association's two-weekend tournament to clinch the group's Ace of Aces award.

The 16-handicapper shot a net 65 in the second and final round of the season-ending competition last Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Links to finish the two-round competition with a net 138. Bautista had a 73 in the first round of play at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort last Jan. 16 and was in sixth place in the rankings—four strokes behind Round 1 top finisher Hak Chon Bae.

Bae, who sports a 14 handicap, ended up settling for second place after last Saturday's finale, as he carded a net 74 in

the second round for a total net of 143. Bae had a 42 and 43 on the front and back nines in Round 1 for a gross 85, but failed to keep the lead when he posted a 46 on the front and 42 on the back for a gross 88 in Round 2.

Bautista, whose 73 in the opening round came from his 41 in the first nine holes at Laolao and 48 in the last for a gross 89, played better at Kingfisher when he hit a 40 and 41 on the front and back nines for a gross 81.

Joining Bautista and Bae in the Top 3 was Ruben Avendano, who finished the two-round event with a net 144. The 20-handicapper Avendano was ranked second after the first round with his net 70 (46 and 44 on front and back

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Bautista notches Fil-Taga Ace of Aces title



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ace of Aces champion Henry Bautista, second right, joins Fil-Taga Golfers Association members for a group photo before heading out to the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort course for the first round of the season-ending tournament.